

# The SPIRIT



ON THE VERY DAY THAT  
**KILLER KETCH**  
FINISHED HIS TEN-YEAR  
SENTENCE FOR SAFE-CRACKING...

THE SAME OLD  
NIGHT CLUB! WHY  
DON'T THEY PUT OUT  
THE **WELCOME**  
SIGN?

**Club  
Orinoco**  
ONE  
FLIGHT  
UP

BUT... IF  
YOU HAVEN'T  
A  
RESERVATION...

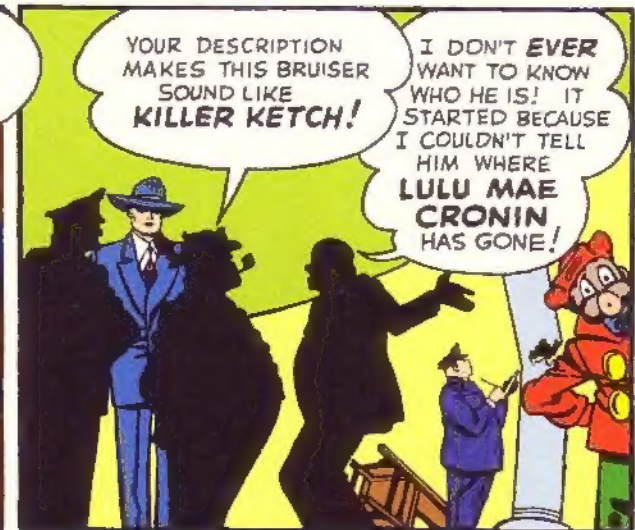
ONE SIDE!  
I CAME TO  
FIND **LULU  
MAE  
CRONIN!**

DON'T TELL ME  
SHE DON'T SING  
HERE ANY MORE!  
DIG HER UP,  
OR ---

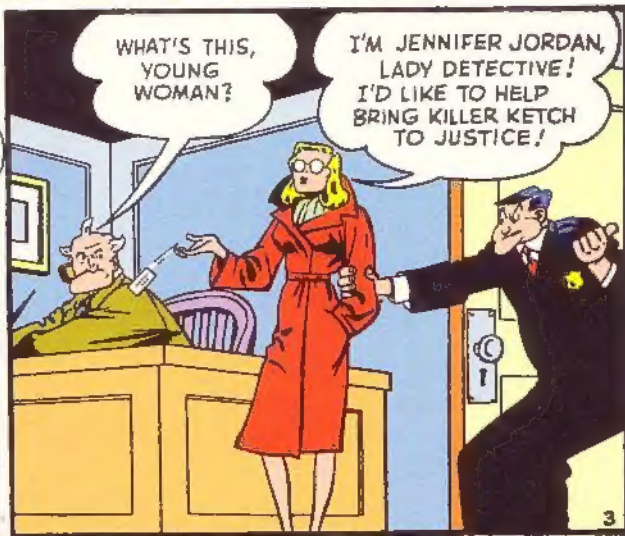
QUICK!  
SOMEBODY!  
ANYBODY!  
**ANY-  
BODY!**



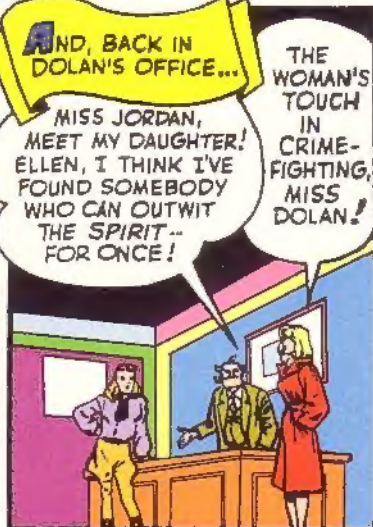
















SHE MIGHT DO IT -- AND DADDY WOULD NEVER STOP CROWING OVER IT TO THE SPIRIT!



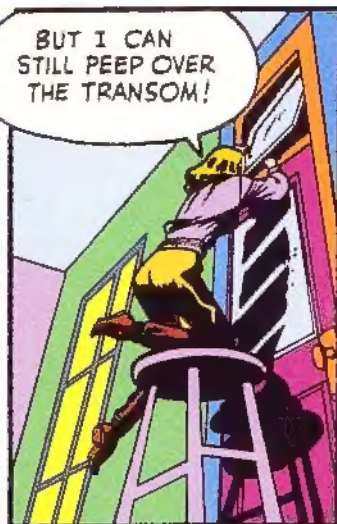
MAYBE I'LL SEE WHAT HER GAME IS -- PLAY IT MYSELF -- AND HAVE THE LAUGH ON EVERYBODY!



SHE'S ONLY GOING TO HER OFFICE -- I'LL INVENT AN EXCUSE TO VISIT HER!



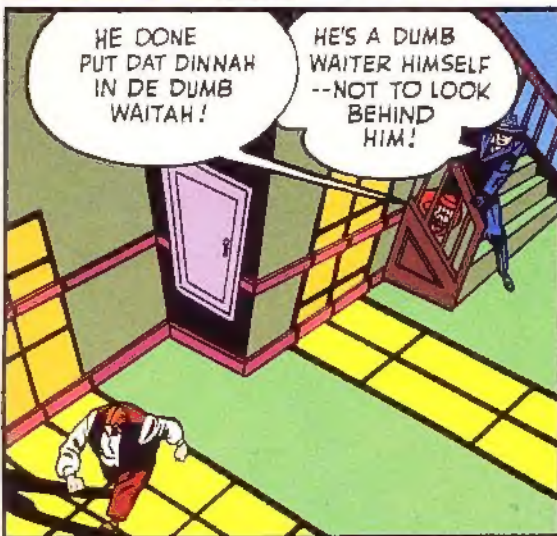
OH-OH! SHE WANTS PRIVACY! -- LOCKING HERSELF IN!



BUT I CAN STILL PEEP OVER THE TRANSOM!

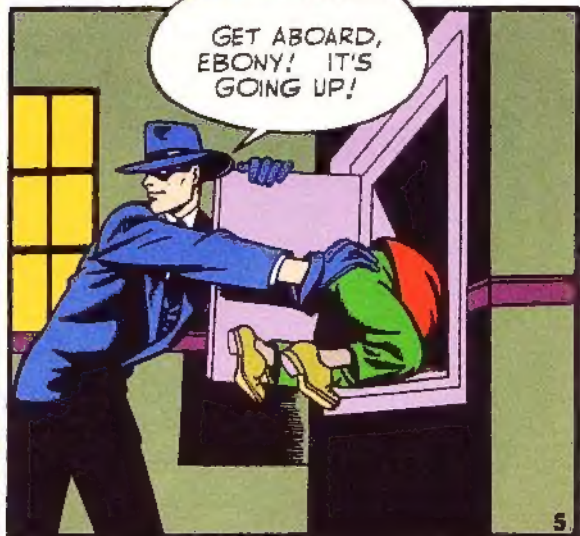


OH-HH! IF ONLY THE SPIRIT WERE HERE TO HELP! -- **WHERE IS HE?...**



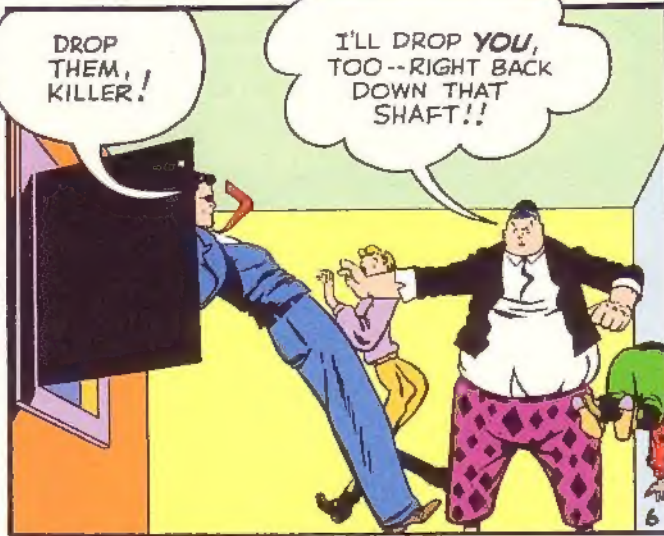
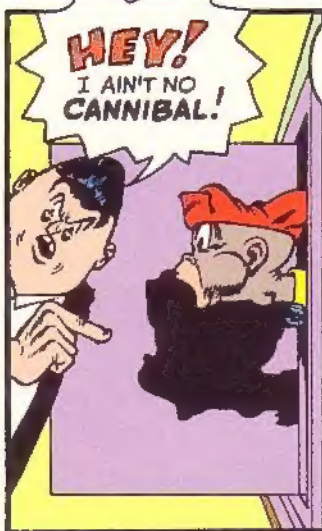
HE DONE PUT DAT DINNAH IN DE DUMB WAITAH!

HE'S A DUMB WAITER HIMSELF -- NOT TO LOOK BEHIND HIM!

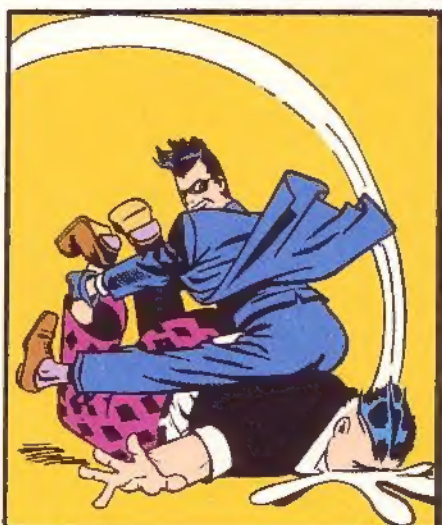
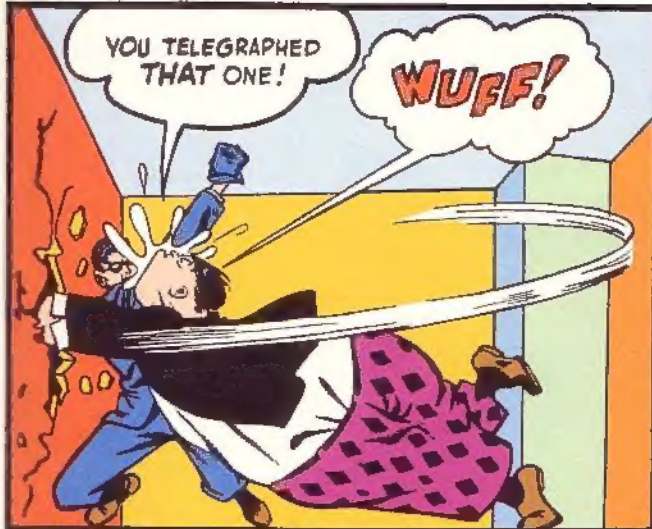


GET ABOARD, EBONY! IT'S GOING UP!

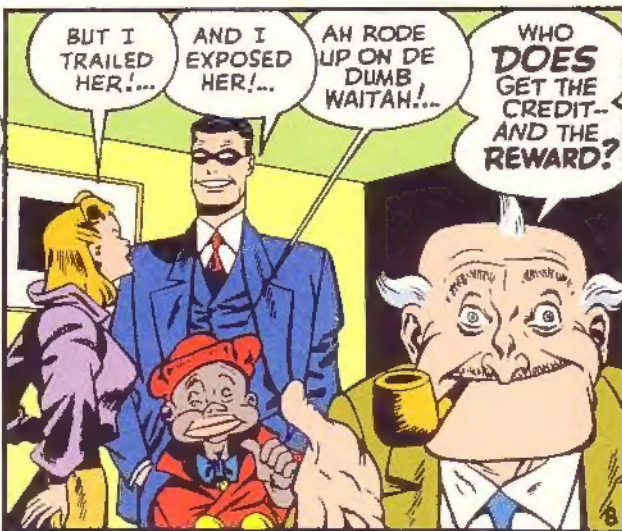














# THE SPIRIT



WHUT WE KIDS  
WOULD LAK TO KNOW,  
MIST' COMMISSIONER,  
IS WHUT IS YO' ALL  
DOIN' ABOUT THE  
MURDER OF  
MIST' SORREL!

HUH?

MIST' SORREL  
DONE MO' FO' US KIDS  
THAN ANY OTHER MAN IN  
THIS HYAH TOWN ...AN'  
NOW SOMEBODY KILLS  
HIM AN' YO' CAIN'T  
EVEN KETCH THE  
MURDERER!

OF ALL  
THE  
NERVE!!

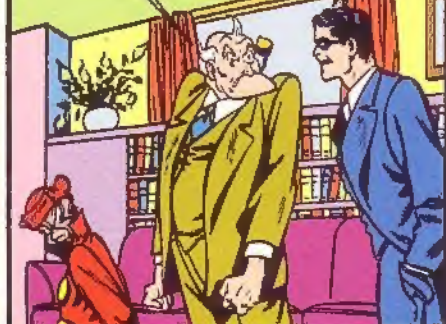


MIST' SORREL  
BUILT PLAYGROUNDS  
AN' A SWIMMIN' POOL  
FO' US KIDS! YO' CAIN'T  
JES' SET THERE AN' LET  
DE MAN DAT KILLED  
HIM GIT AWAY  
WIF IT!

YOUNG MAN, I'LL  
HAVE YOU KNOW THAT  
WE'VE HUNTED HIGH  
AND LOW FOR THE KILLER!  
BESIDES.. WHAT DO YOU MEAN  
BY TALKING TO ME LIKE  
THAT? WHY, I  
OUGHT TO --

**SPIRIT!** YOU  
GET THAT FRESH  
BRAT OUT OF HERE  
BEFORE I TEAR  
HIM APART!

DOLAN, WHEN  
YOU GET MAD  
LIKE THAT, YOU'RE  
PRACTICALLY  
ADMITTING!  
HE'S RIGHT.



IS THAT SO? WELL,  
LET ME TELL YOU SOMETHING!  
YOU CAN GET RIGHT OUT OF HERE  
WITH HIM, WISE GUY! NOBODY  
TELLS ME HOW TO DO MY  
JOB! I SUPPOSE YOU  
THINK YOU'D FIND IT  
EASY TO SOLVE THE  
SORREL MYSTERY!

MAYBE  
NOT EASY...  
BUT I THINK  
IT COULD  
BE DONE!



WELL... WHY  
DON'T YOU DO  
IT, THEN?

I WAS JUST  
WAITING FOR YOUR  
PERMISSION!  
THANKS, DOLAN!



SMART  
ALECKS.

SNAP

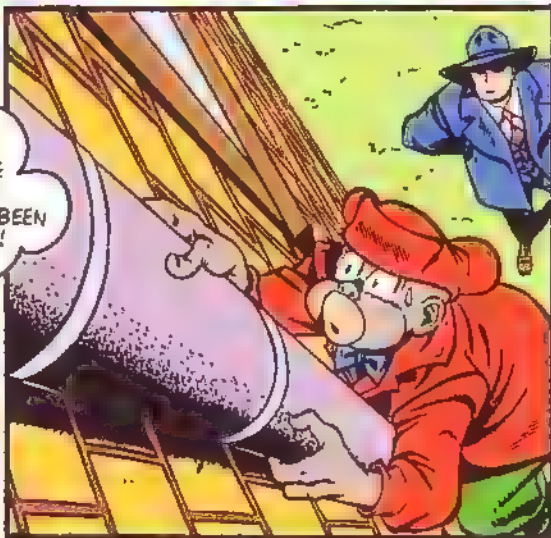
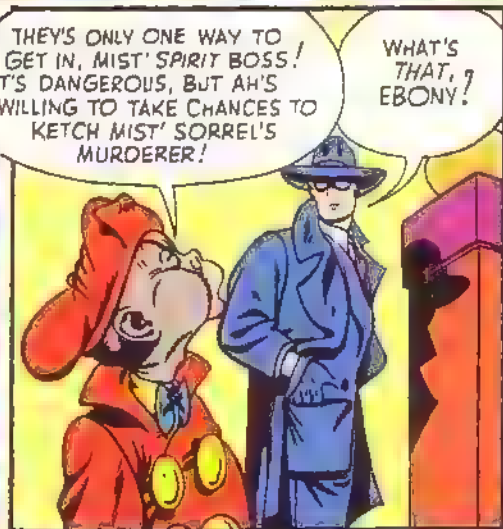
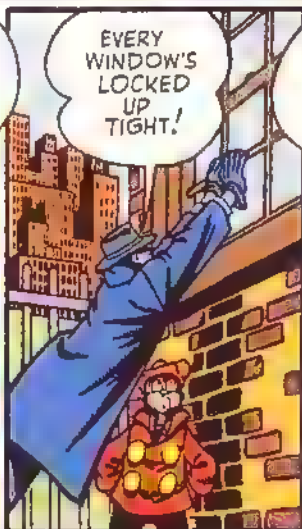
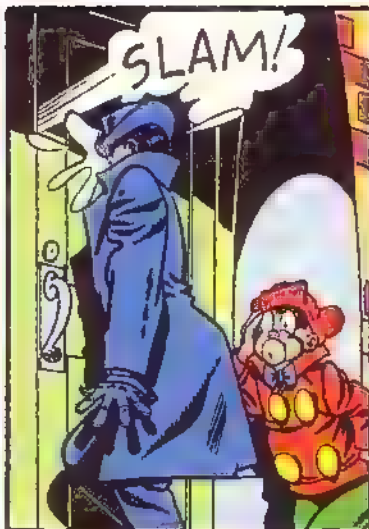
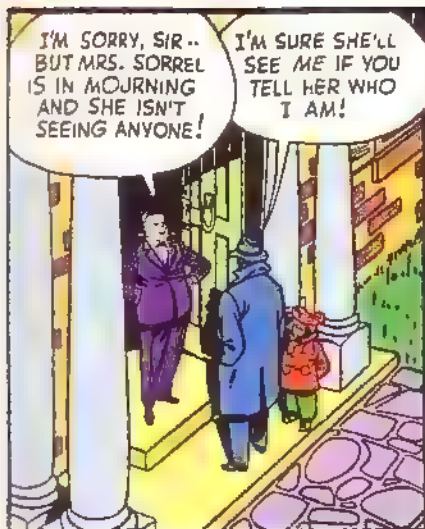


WHUT DOES  
WE DO FUST,  
MIST' SPIRIT  
BOSS?

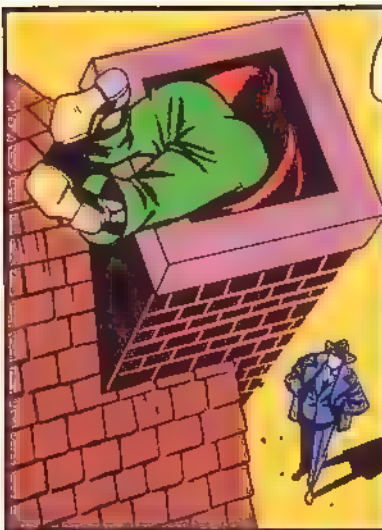
HAVE A TALK  
WITH MRS. SORREL,  
I GUESS!



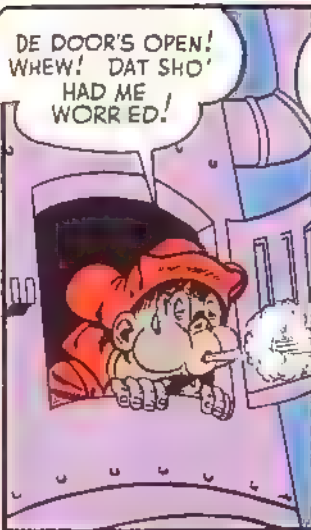






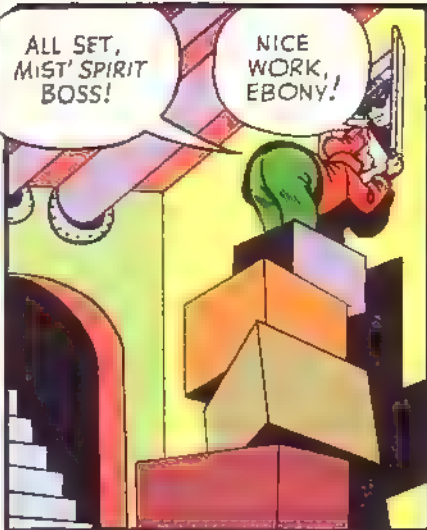


DE DOOR'S OPEN!  
WHEW! DAT SHO'  
HAD ME  
WORRED!

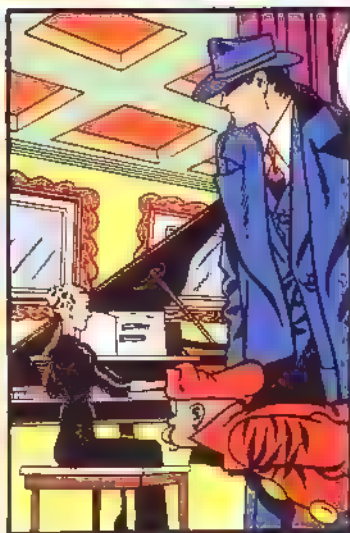


ALL SET,  
MIST' SPIRIT  
BOSS!

NICE  
WORK,  
EBONY!

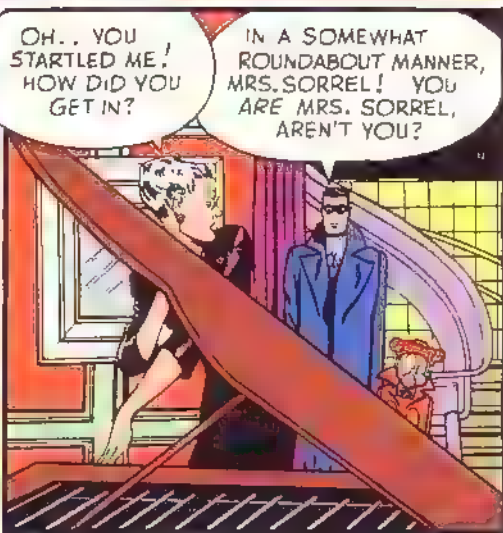


SOMEBODY'S  
PLAYING THE  
PIANO!

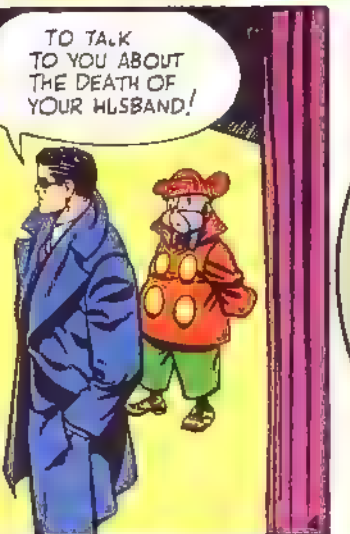


OH... YOU  
STARTLED ME!  
HOW DID YOU  
GET IN?

IN A SOMEWHAT  
ROUNDAABOUT MANNER,  
MRS. SORREL! YOU  
ARE MRS. SORREL,  
AREN'T YOU?



WHY, YES  
OF COURSE!  
WHY HAVE YOU  
COME HERE!



TO TALK  
TO YOU ABOUT  
THE DEATH OF  
YOUR HUSBAND!



I'M TERRIBLY  
SORRY, MRS. SORREL!  
I DIDN'T MEAN TO  
UPSET YOU!



I CAN'T HELP IT! EVERY TIME I THINK OF MY HUSBAND'S AWFUL DEATH, I BREAK DOWN! WHY SHOULD ANYBODY HAVE WANTED TO SHOOT SUCH A GOOD, KIND MAN? WHY-- WHY? WHY?

THAT'S WHAT I HOPE TO FIND OUT, MRS. SORREL!

I'D APPRECIATE IT, MRS. SORREL, IF YOU'D TELL US WHAT HAPPENED ON THE NIGHT OF THE MURDER!

OH, I HAVE TOLD THAT STORY SO MANY TIMES! ...I WAS SITTING HERE AT THE PIANO! MR SORREL WAS WORKING IN THE LIBRARY! SUDDENLY I HEARD A SHOT!

...I RAN TO THE LIBRARY! MY HUSBAND LAY ON THE FLOOR, DEAD! IT WAS HORRIBLE! THEN I NOTICED THAT THE WINDOW WAS SMASHED, AND ON THE FLOOR I FOUND A MAN'S HAT!

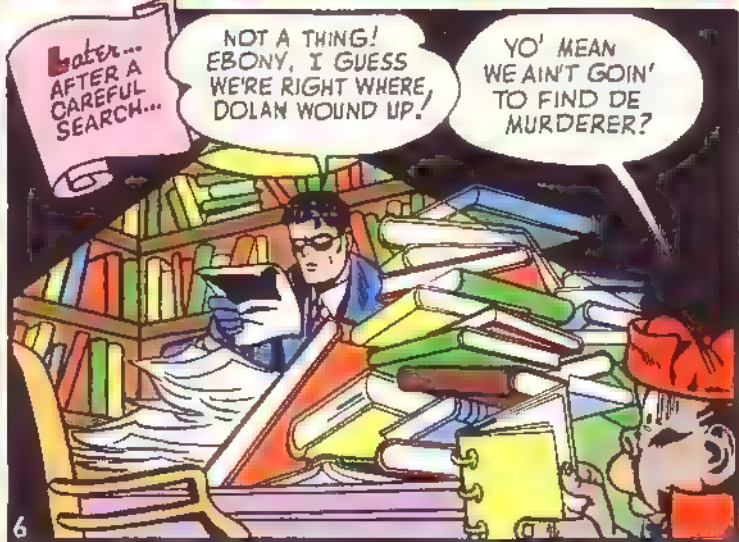
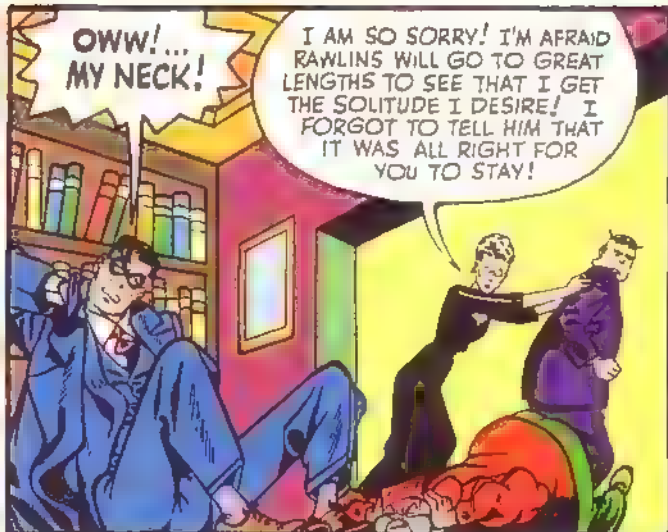
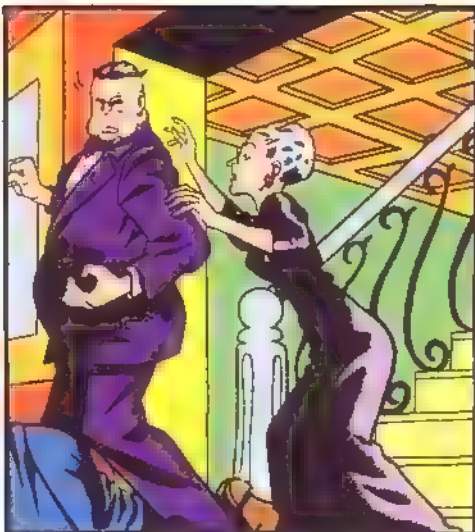
A HAT WITHOUT INITIALS ... THE ONE CLUE THE POLICE HAVE! ... MRS. SORREL, WOULD YOU MIND IF WE LOOKED THROUGH SOME OF MR. SORREL'S THINGS? HIS PAPERS, FOR INSTANCE ... THEY MIGHT FURNISH SOME CLUE TO THE MOTIVE FOR HIS MURDER!

I'LL BRING THEM TO YOU!

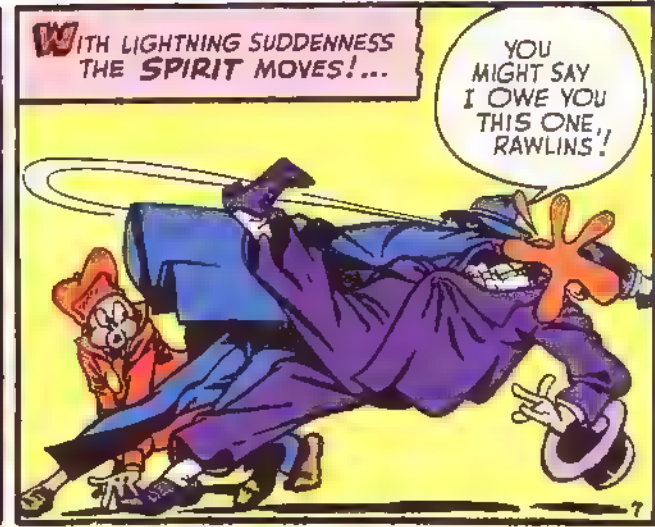
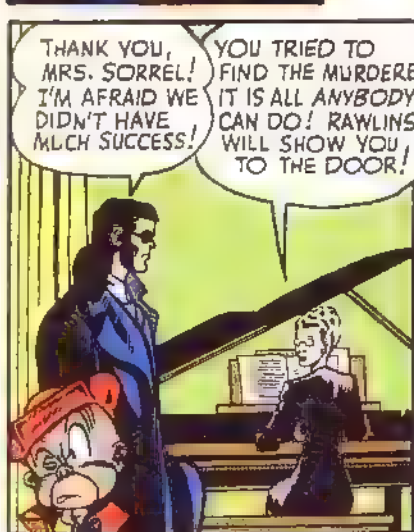
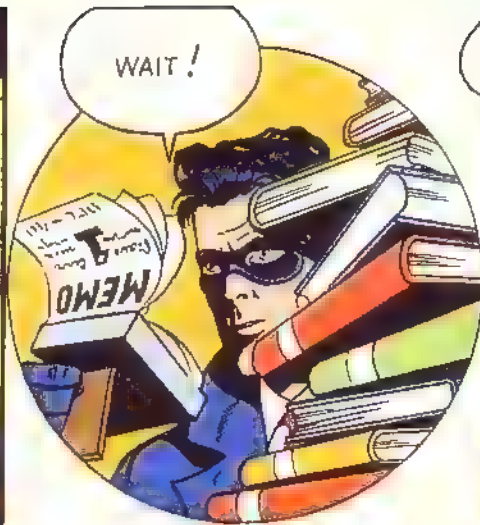
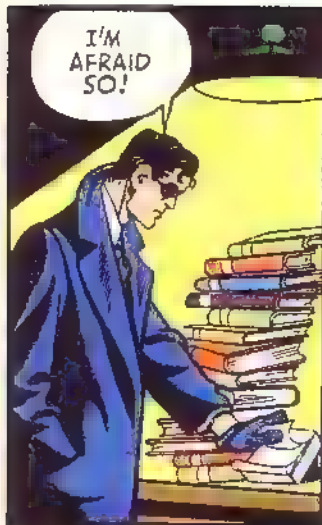
MIST' SPIRIT BOSS ... SHE IS DE NICEST LADY AH EVER SEEN!

I TOLD YOU YOU COULDN'T COME IN HERE!











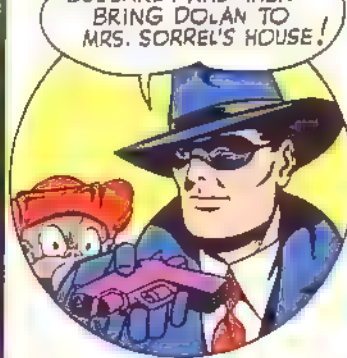
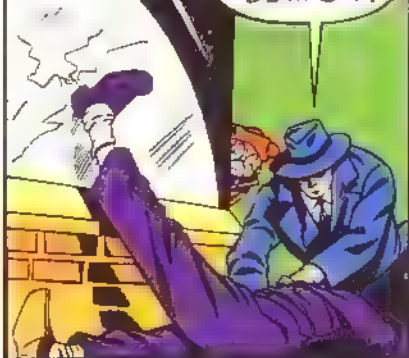
BUT MIST' SPIRIT BOSS! WHY'D YO' DO DAT AFTER YO' SAID EVERYTHING WAS ALL RIGHT!

EBONY, UNLESS I'M MISTAKEN, MR. RAWLINS WAS JUST ABOUT READY TO BUMP US BOTH OFF!

THERE'S THE GUN THAT WAS TO SPELL "FINIS" FOR US! HE CAME ALONG WITH US TO LOOK FOR A CHANCE TO KILL US! EBONY, GET A COP TO PULL IN THIS BUZZARD, AND THEN BRING DOLAN TO MRS. SORREL'S HOUSE!

THOUGHTFUL OF ME TO TAKE RAWLINS' KEY!

IS IT DONE RAWLINS?



NO MRS. SORREL! IT ISN'T DONE! ... I DECIDED NOT TO GIVE MR. RAWLINS AN OPPORTUNITY TO KILL US!

CONFESS THAT YOU SENT HIM ALONG TO KILL US! YOU MAY AS WELL, BECAUSE I KNOW NOW THAT YOU KILLED YOUR HUSBAND!

IT'S TRUE! I'M GLAD YOU KNOW! NOW I NO LONGER HAVE TO LIVE IN FEAR OF BEING DISCOVERED!

EBONY ARRIVES WITH DOLAN ...

WHAT MADE YOU SUSPECT HER?

READ THAT! "CALL ATTORNEYS TO REVISE WILL IN FAVOR OF UNITED CHARITIES!"... APPARENTLY, MR. SORREL WAS ABOUT TO CUT HER OUT OF HIS WILL, SO SHE KILLED HIM!



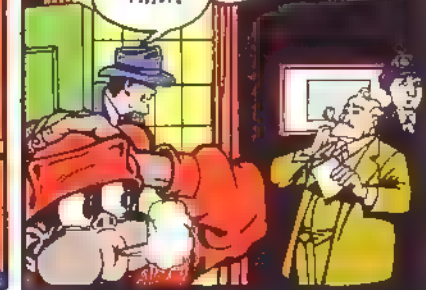
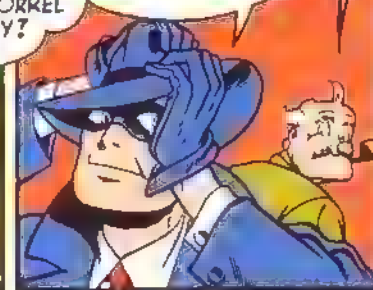
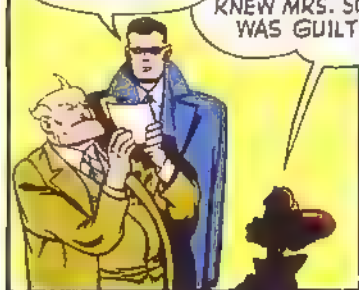
THEN SHE PLANTED A HAT AND A BROKEN WINDOW IN THE ROOM TO THROW YOU OFF, DOLAN! LUCKILY, SHE OVERLOOKED THIS MEMORANDUM!

BUT MIST' SPIRIT BOSS, WHY'D WE LEAVE WIF MR. RAWLINS EF'N YO' ALREADY KNEW MRS. SORREL WAS GUILTY?

BECAUSE I HAD TO HAVE PROOF THAT MRS. SORREL WAS SO AFRAID OF BEING FOUND OUT THAT SHE'D RESORT TO A SECOND ATTEMPT TO KILL US!

A SECOND ATTEMPT?

YES! MRS. SORREL WAS THOROUGHLY FRIGHTENED BY OUR CURIOSITY-- AND SHE DETERMINED TO HAVE US KILLED ... BUT, THE FIRST TIME, RAWLINS WAS FOOL ENOUGH TO ATTEMPT IT RIGHT IN THE HOUSE, SO SHE STOPPED HIM!





# The SPIRIT

by  
WILL  
EISNER

Here is the **SPIRIT**...

whom all of you know...

Next, Ebony White

who  
inherits  
some  
dough...

Commissioner  
Dolan ...

his daughter, Ellen...

and a man who  
dies strangely...

Now... On With The Show!

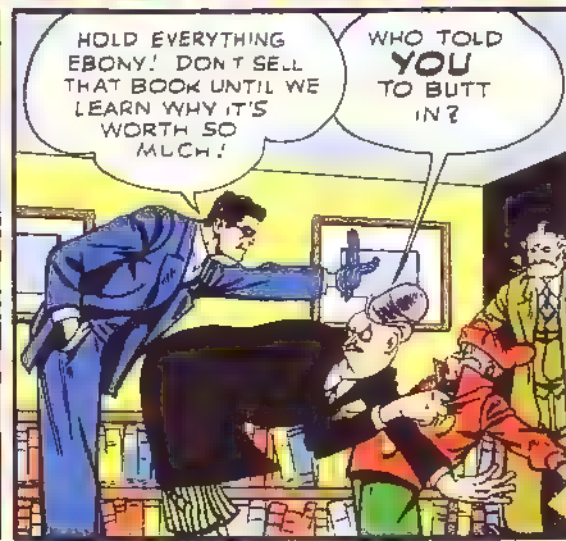
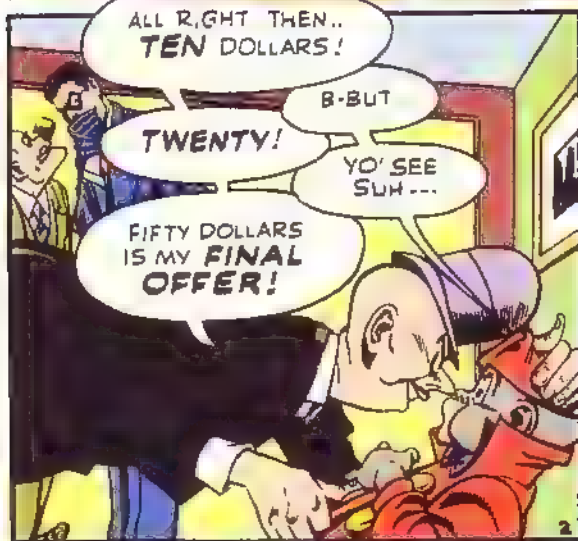
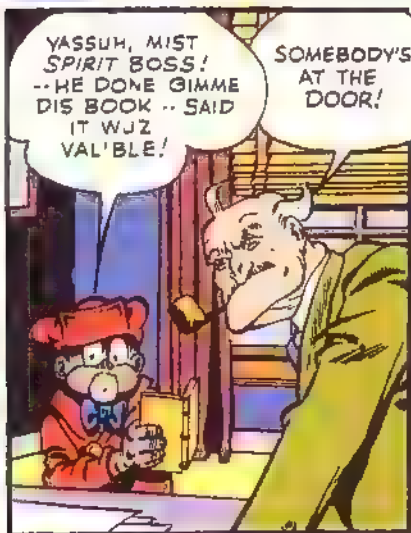
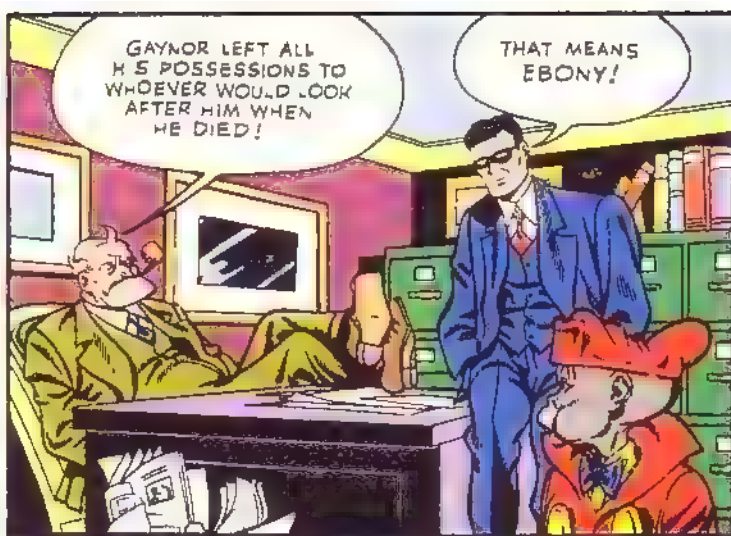
A silent side street in  
CENTRAL CITY -- a  
staggering figure...

HERE, BOY -  
THIS - NOTEBOOK -  
VALUABLE .....

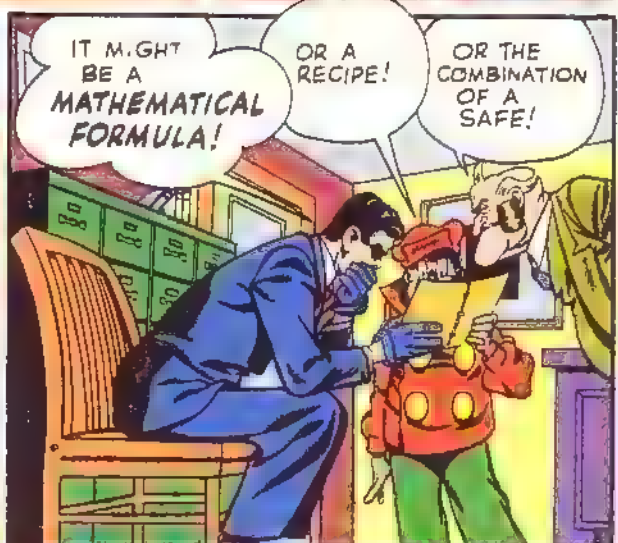
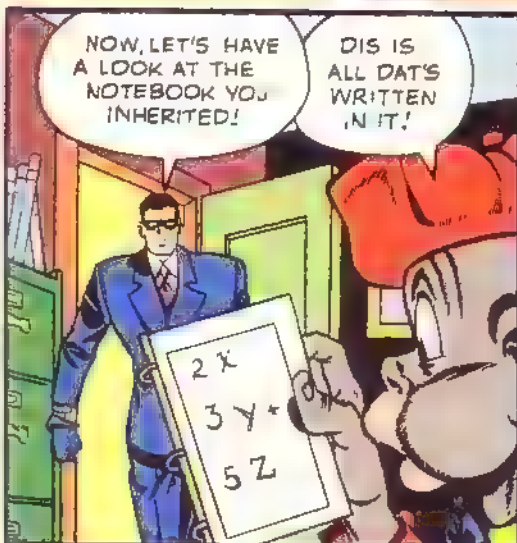
YO'  
LOOK -AK  
YO'S GWINE  
TO --TO--

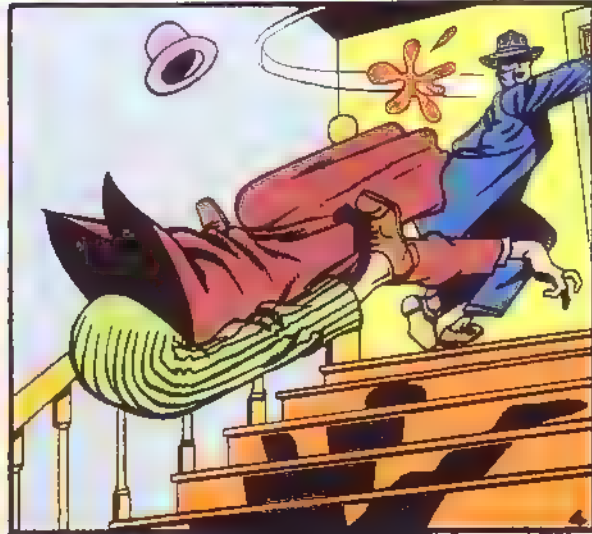
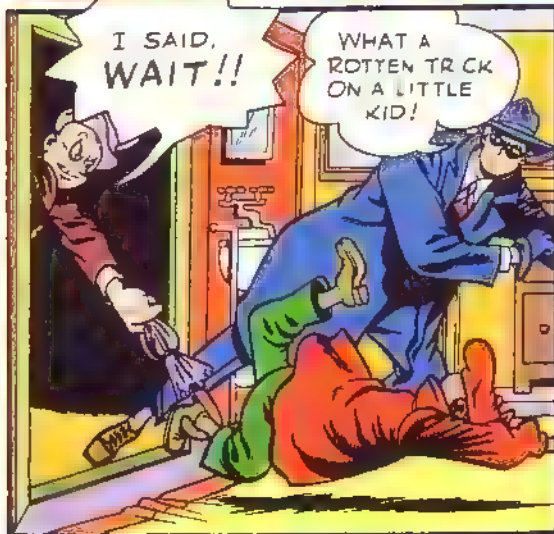
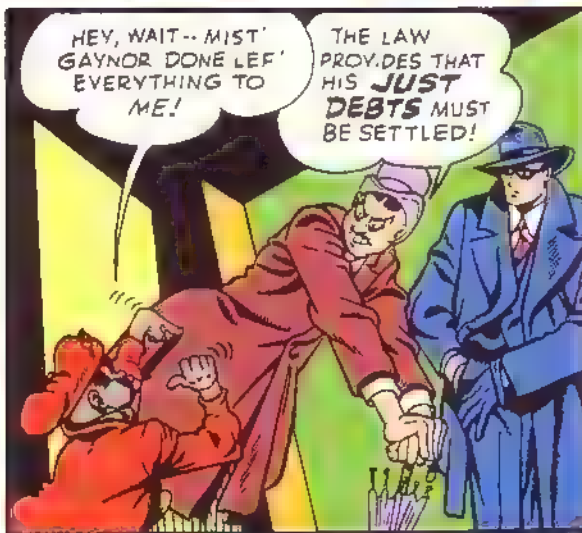
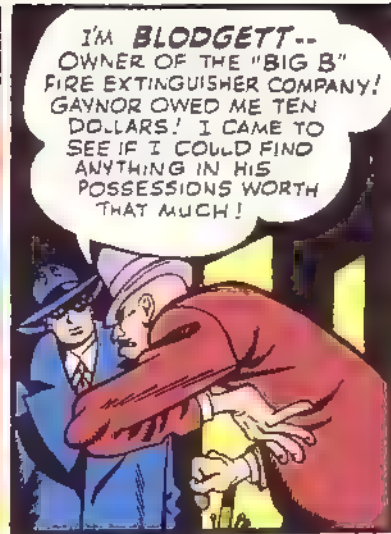
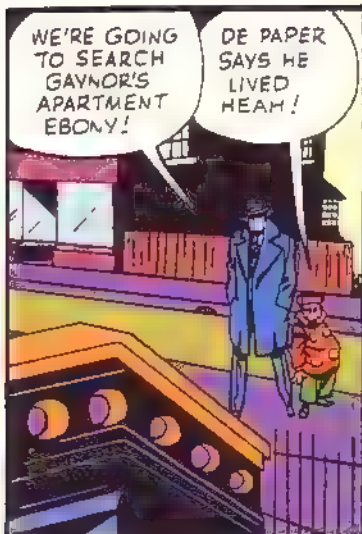
HE'S  
DEAD!!



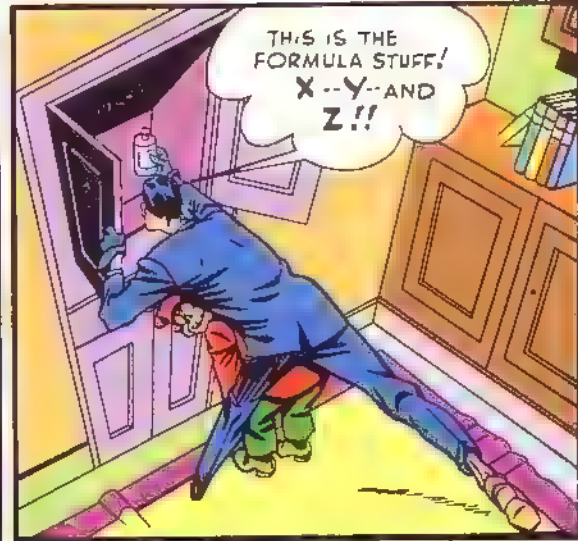
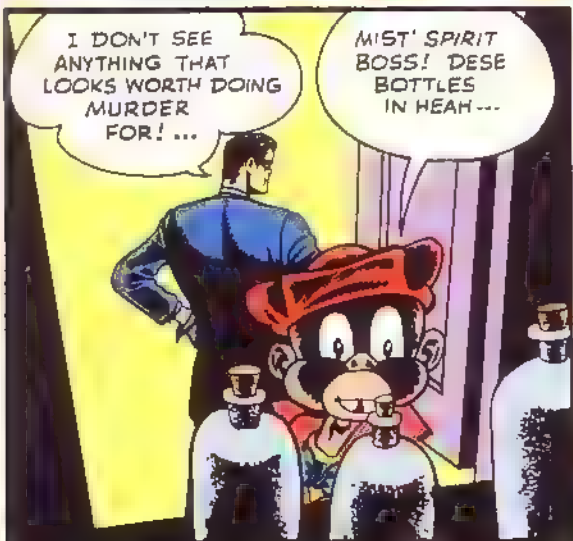
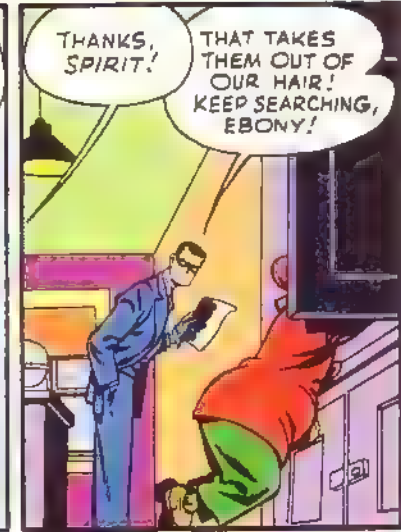
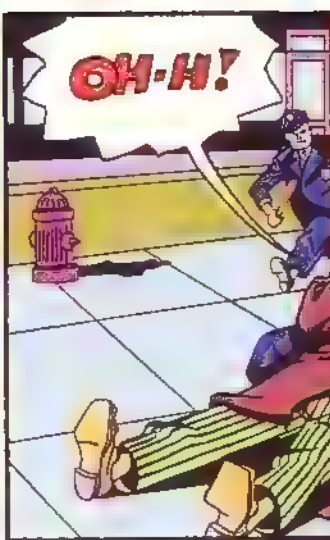


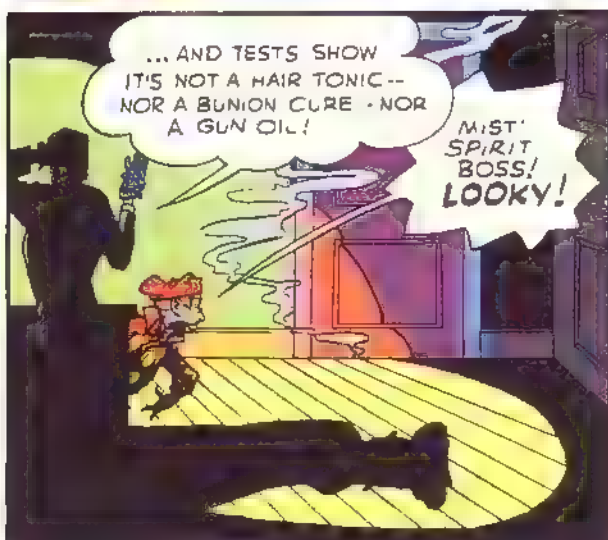
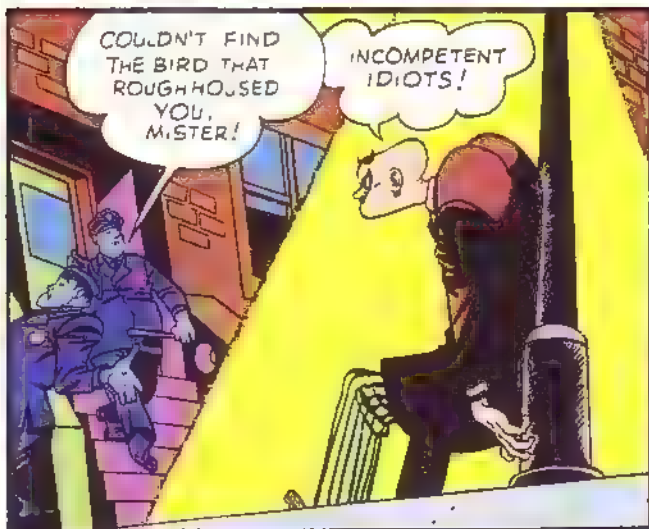




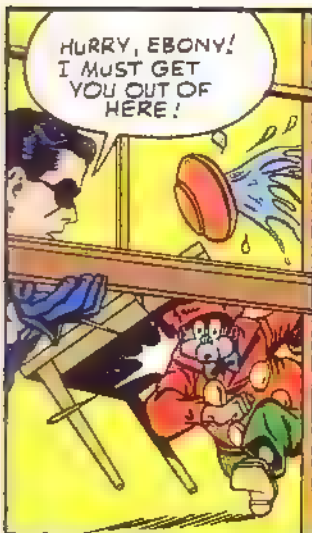








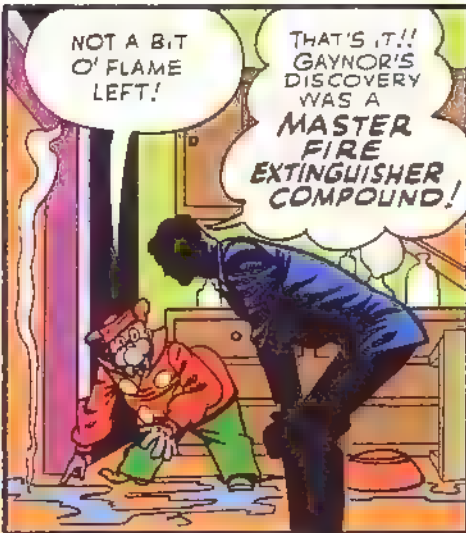




HURRY, EBONY!  
I MUST GET  
YOU OUT OF  
HERE!



DE FIRE, MIST'  
SPIRIT BOSS! ...  
LOOK WHUT'S  
HAPPENIN'  
TO IT!



NOT A BIT  
O' FLAME  
LEFT!

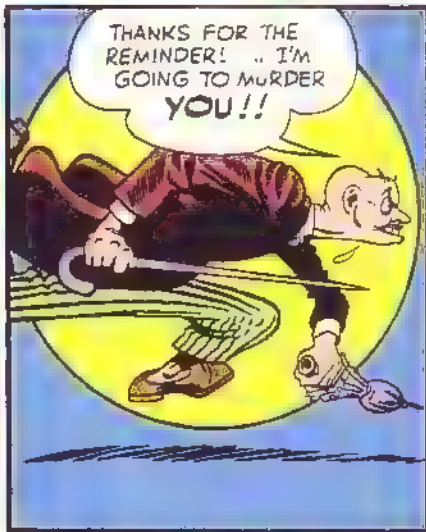
THAT'S IT!!  
GAYNOR'S  
DISCOVERY  
WAS A  
**MASTER  
FIRE  
EXTINGUISHER  
COMPOUND!**



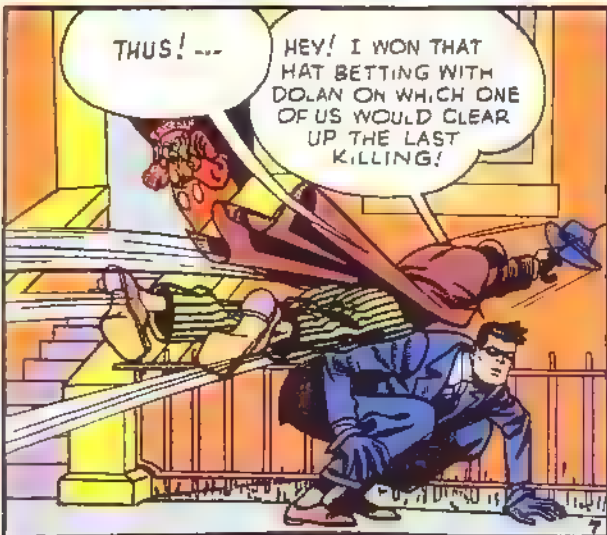
I MUFFED  
THAT, TOO!  
LOOKS AS IF  
I'LL HAVE TO BEGIN  
TO USE  
**FORCE!**



AH... BLODGETT! GLAD  
YOU HUNG AROUND! I  
THINK I'M ABOUT  
TO CLEAR UP A  
**MURDER!**

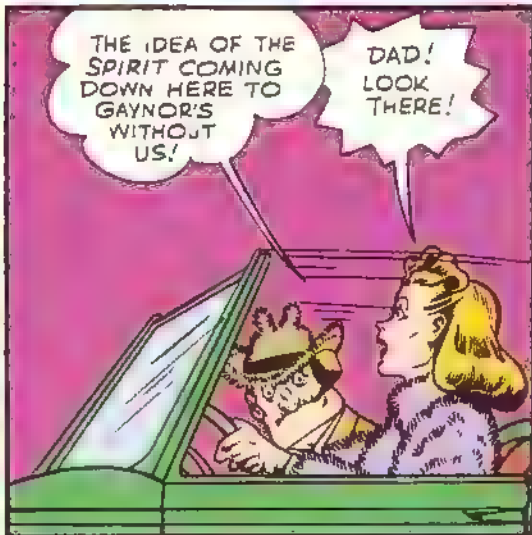


THANKS FOR THE  
REMINDER! .. I'M  
GOING TO MURDER  
**YOU!!**



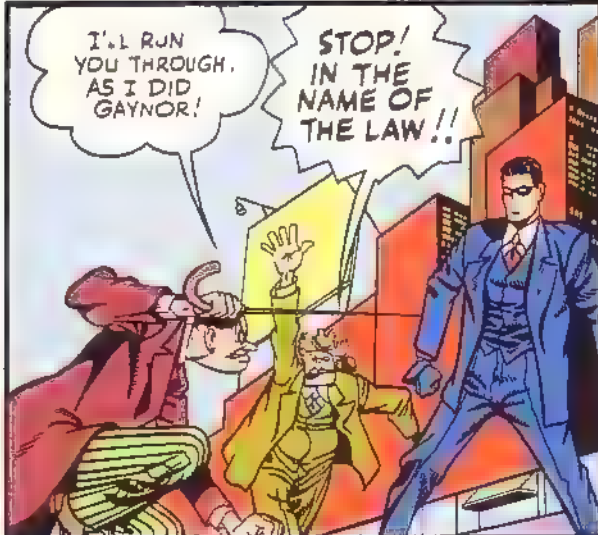
THUS! ...

HEY! I WON THAT  
HAT BETTING WITH  
DOLAN ON WHICH ONE  
OF US WOULD CLEAR  
UP THE LAST  
KILLING!



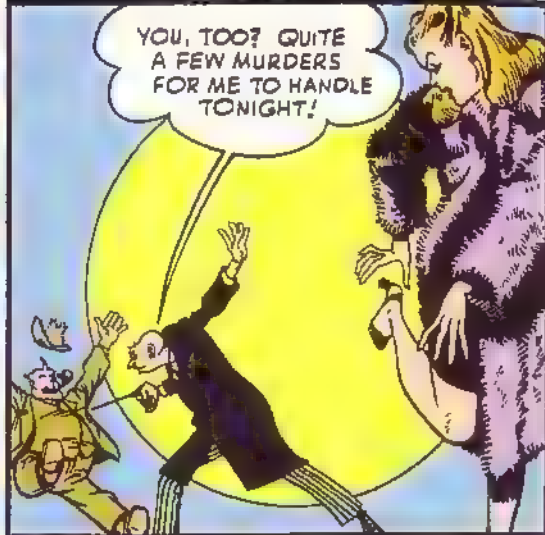
THE IDEA OF THE  
SPIRIT COMING  
DOWN HERE TO  
GAYNOR'S  
WITHOUT  
US!

DAD!  
LOOK  
THERE!

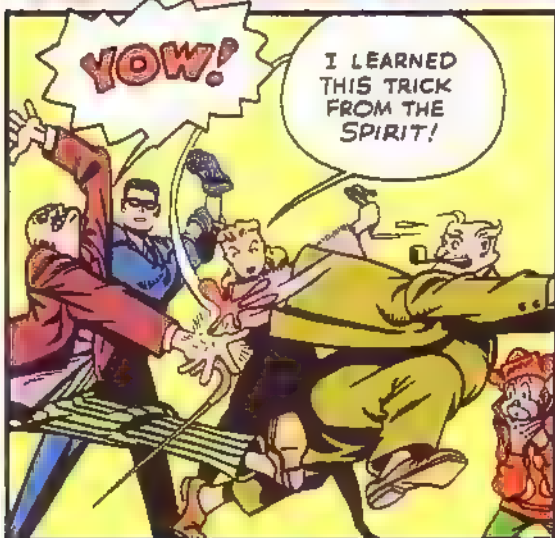


I'LL RUN  
YOU THROUGH,  
AS I DID  
GAYNOR!

STOP!  
IN THE  
NAME OF  
THE LAW!!

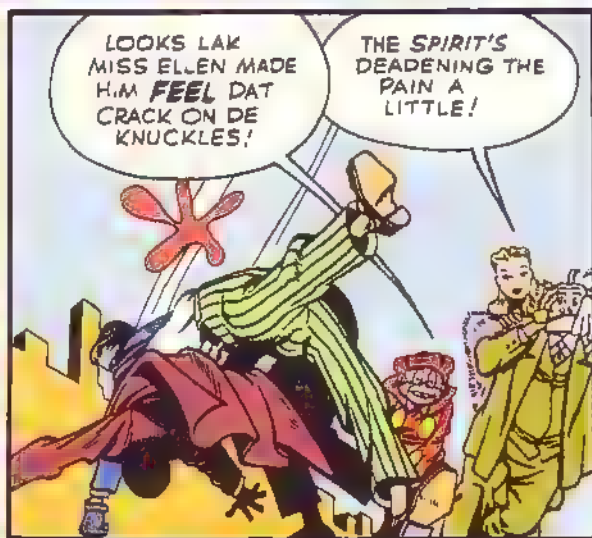


YOU, TOO? QUITE  
A FEW MURDERS  
FOR ME TO HANDLE  
TONIGHT!



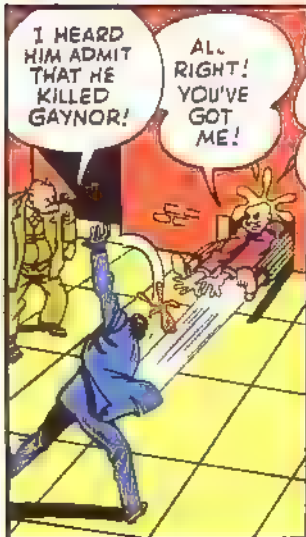
YOW!

I LEARNED  
THIS TRICK  
FROM THE  
SPIRIT!



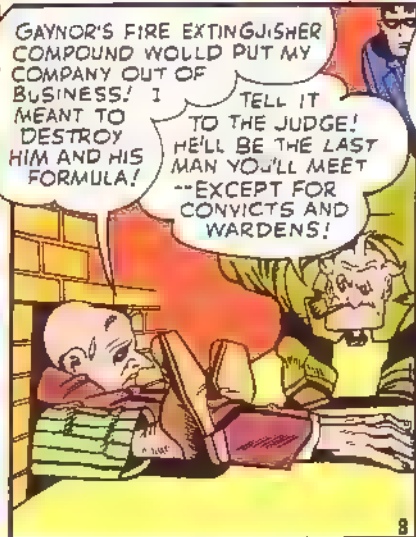
LOOKS LAK  
MISS ELLEN MADE  
HIM **FEEL** DAT  
CRACK ON DE  
KNUCKLES!

THE **SPIRIT'S**  
DEADENING THE  
PAIN A  
LITTLE!



I HEARD  
HIM ADMIT  
THAT HE  
KILLED  
GAYNOR!

ALL  
RIGHT!  
YOU'VE  
GOT  
ME!



GAYNOR'S FIRE EXTINGUISHER  
COMPOUND WOULD PUT MY  
COMPANY OUT OF  
BUSINESS! I  
MEANT TO  
DESTROY  
HIM AND HIS  
FORMULA!

TELL IT  
TO THE JUDGE!  
HE'LL BE THE LAST  
MAN YOU'LL MEET  
--EXCEPT FOR  
CONVICTS AND  
WARDENS!



YOU STAND TO  
MAKE SOME MONEY  
FROM GAYNOR'S  
DISCOVERY, EBONY!  
WHAT ARE YOU  
GOING TO BUY?

WHUT ALL  
SMAHT  
INVESTANS  
BUY DESE  
DAYS --  
**WAR  
BONDS!!**





ELLEN DOLAN IS  
TO BE MAID OF  
HONOR AT THE  
WEDDING OF  
KATE LOVELLE...

A PRESENT  
FROM JOLIE DEMDIKE,  
YOU SAY, KATE? BUT I  
THOUGHT SHE HATED YOU  
--BECAUSE SHE WANTED  
TO MARRY TOM HARROW,  
HERSELF!

IT'S A SILLY  
JOKE--  
NOTHING  
IN THIS  
BOX--

WHAT--  
STRUCK  
ME--?

KATE!

HELLO! POLICE  
HEADQUARTERS! LET  
ME SPEAK TO MY FATHER  
--COMMISSIONER  
DOLAN!









BUT D-DAT  
SKELLINGTON  
DONE TALKED  
TO ME!

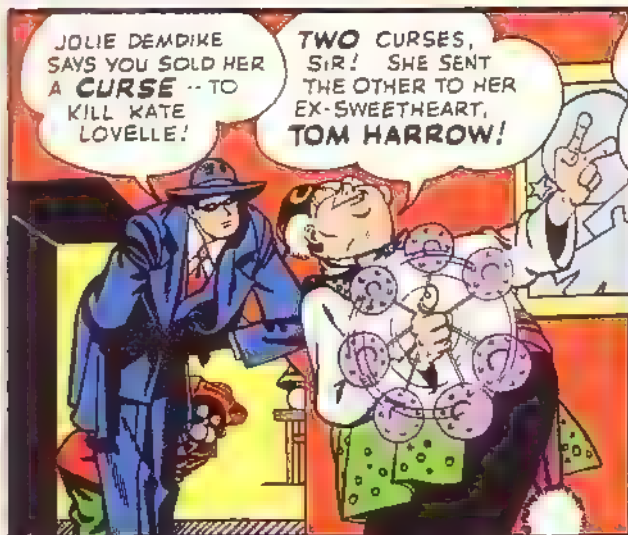
WELL, IT  
CAN'T TALK  
NOW! I  
KNOCKED IT  
LOOSE FROM  
ITSELF!



RUDE WAYS  
YOU HAVE!...  
LOOK TOWARD  
THE INNER  
DOOR!

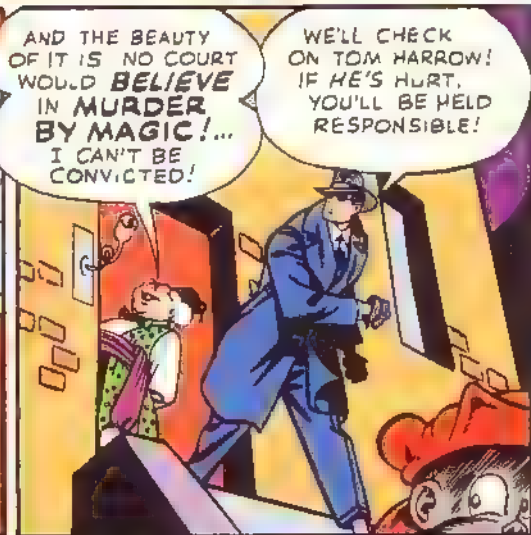


I'M DR. HOODOO! MY  
DOORKEEPER WAS WIRED  
FOR SOUND AND THE DOOR  
OPENED BY ELECTRIC PUSH-  
BUTTON! YOU OWE ME  
TEN DOLLARS FOR  
PROPERTY DAMAGE!



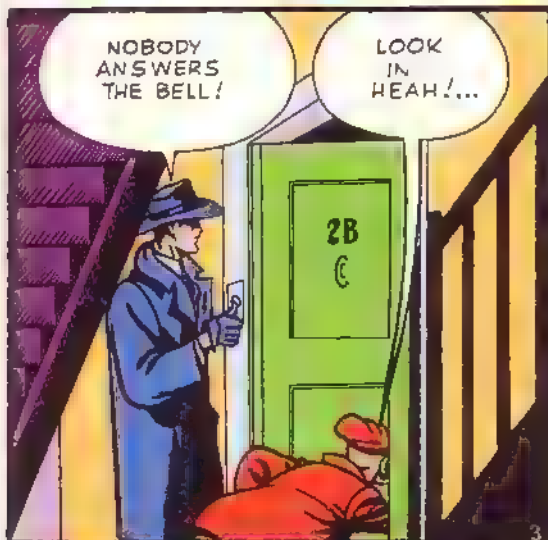
JOLIE DEMDIKE  
SAYS YOU SOLD HER  
A **CURSE** -- TO  
KILL KATE  
LOVELLE!

TWO CURSES,  
SIR! SHE SENT  
THE OTHER TO HER  
EX-SWEETHEART,  
TOM HARROW!



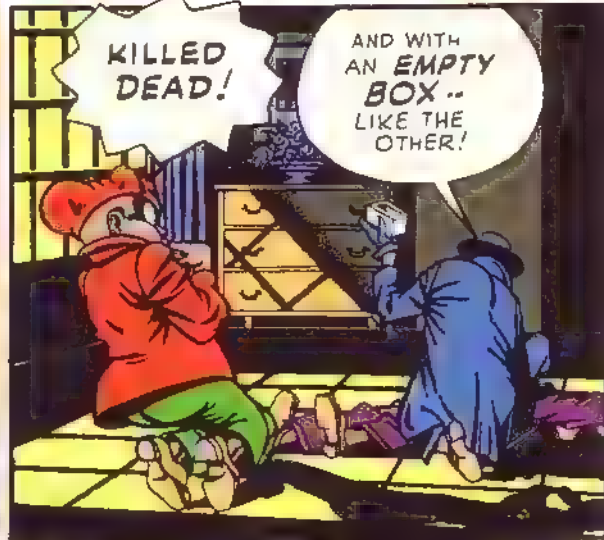
AND THE BEAUTY  
OF IT IS NO COURT  
WOULD **BELIEVE**  
IN **MURDER**  
BY **MAGIC**!...  
I CAN'T BE  
CONVICTED!

WE'LL CHECK  
ON TOM HARROW!  
IF HE'S HURT,  
YOU'LL BE HELD  
RESPONSIBLE!



NOBODY  
ANSWERS  
THE BELL!

LOOK  
IN  
HEAH!...



KILLED  
DEAD!

AND WITH  
AN **EMPTY**  
**BOX**..  
LIKE THE  
OTHER!



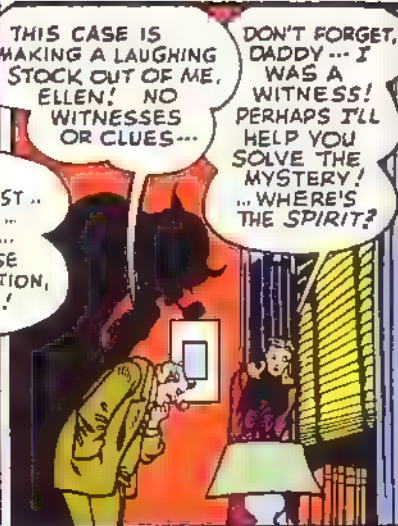
WE GWINE  
BACK TO  
DR. HOODOO'S  
PLACE?

FIRST WE'LL  
CHECK UP ON  
HIS PAST  
RECORD!



IT SAYS HEAH  
DAT DOC HOODOO  
USTA BE A NACHERALIS'  
--EXPLOAHED IN AFRIKY!  
NOW STUDIES **BLACK  
MAGIC!**...

NATURALIST ..  
AFRICA ...  
MAGIC ...  
... STRANGE  
COMBINATION,  
EBONY!



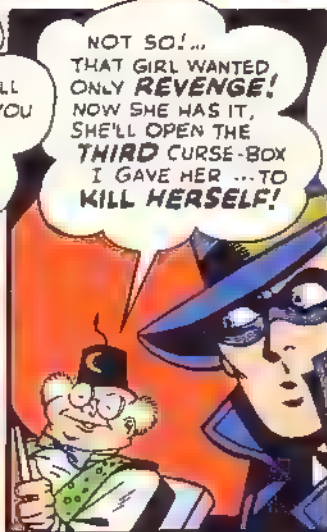
THIS CASE IS  
MAKING A LAUGHING  
STOCK OUT OF ME,  
ELLEN! NO  
WITNESSES  
OR CLUES...

DON'T FORGET,  
DADDY ... I  
WAS A  
WITNESS!  
PERHAPS I'LL  
HELP YOU  
SOLVE THE  
MYSTERY!  
... WHERE'S  
THE SPIRIT?

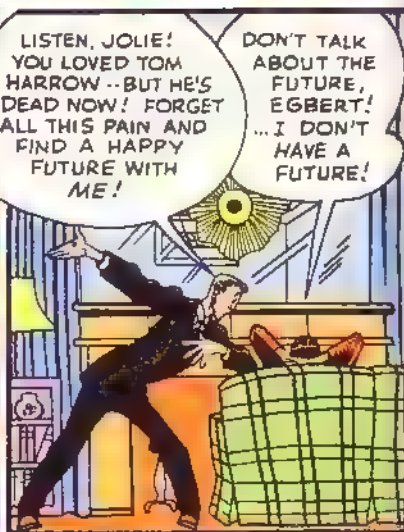


BACK SO  
SOON,  
GENTLEMEN?

DR. HOODOO, I'M  
**CONVINCED**  
YOU'RE GUILTY! TELL  
ME WHY AND HOW YOU  
DO THESE THINGS  
OR I'LL GET THE  
TRUTH FROM  
JOLIE DEMDIKE!



NOT SO! ...  
THAT GIRL WANTED  
ONLY **REVENGE!**  
NOW SHE HAS IT,  
SHE'LL OPEN THE  
**THIRD CURSE-BOX**  
I GAVE HER ... TO  
**KILL HERSELF!**



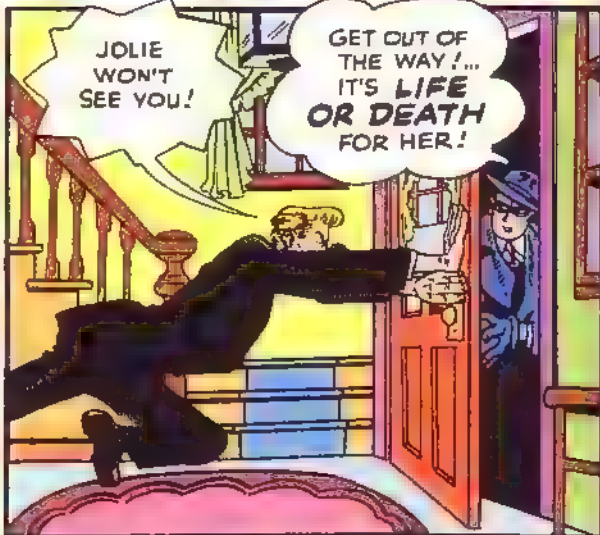
LISTEN, JOLIE!  
YOU LOVED TOM  
HARROW -- BUT HE'S  
DEAD NOW! FORGET  
ALL THIS PAIN AND  
FIND A HAPPY  
FUTURE WITH  
ME!

DON'T TALK  
ABOUT THE  
FUTURE,  
EGBERT!  
... I DON'T  
HAVE A  
FUTURE!



**THE SPIRIT!**  
HE MUSTN'T  
INTERFERE...  
NOW! ...

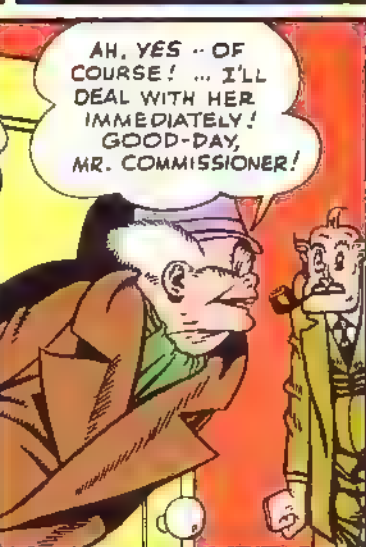
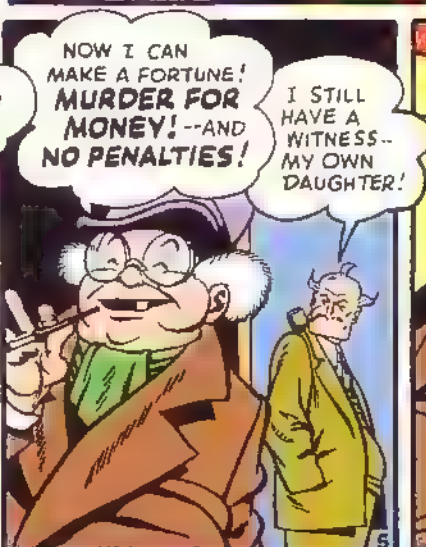
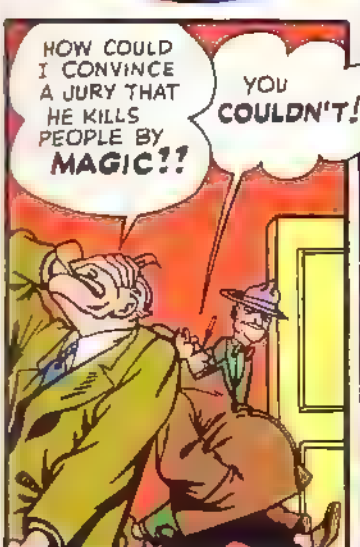
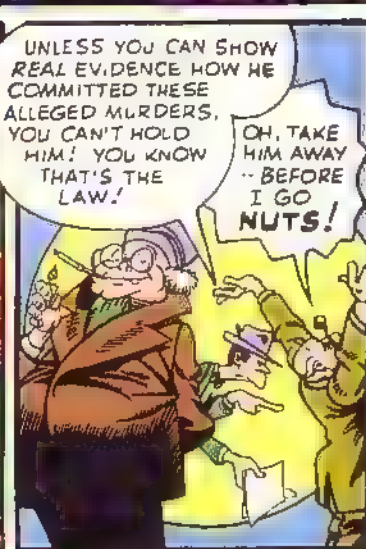
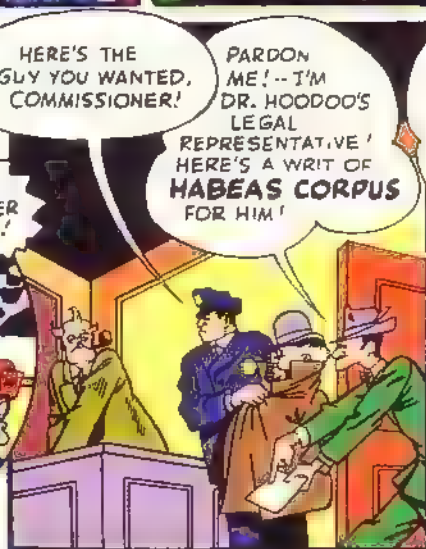
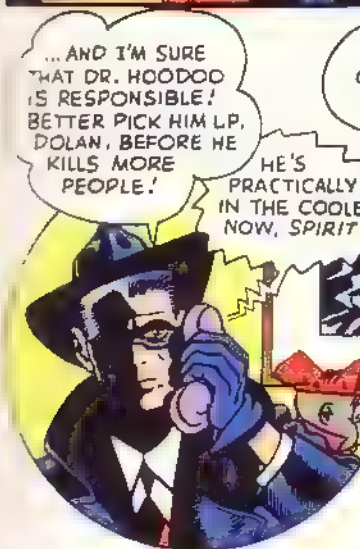
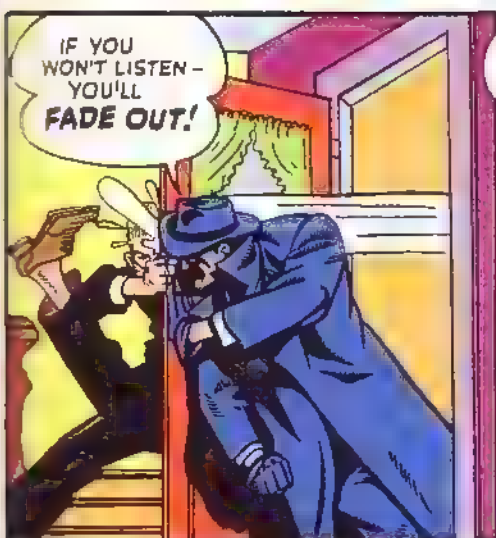
NOT IF  
YOU SAY  
SO,  
JOLIE!



JOLIE  
WON'T  
SEE YOU!

GET OUT OF  
THE WAY! ...  
IT'S **LIFE  
OR DEATH**  
FOR HER!

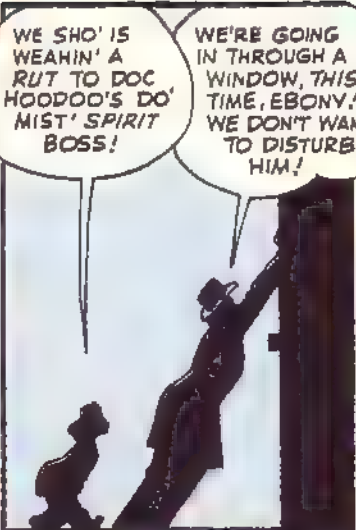






SPIRIT! I LOST MY TEMPER... AND PRACTICALLY REMINDED DOC HOODOO TO TRY HIS BLACK MAGIC ON **ELLEN!!**

THEN GO HOME AND GUARD HER!... I HOPE TO CLEAN UP THIS CASE!



WE SHO' IS WEAHIN' A RUT TO DOC HOODOO'S DO' MIST' SPIRIT BOSS!

WE'RE GOING IN THROUGH A WINDOW, THIS TIME, EBONY! WE DON'T WANT TO DISTURB HIM!



NO POISON... NO STRANGE BOMBS --- NOTHING OUT OF THE ORDINARY...

LOOKS LIKE DOC HOODOO KEEPS **FLIES** FO' PETS! LOOKIT DIS TRAP FULL OF 'EM!



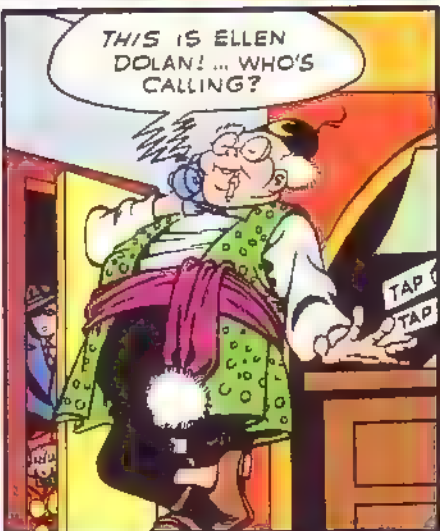
FLIES! HMMMMM... AND THEY HAPPEN TO BE ---

LISSSEN!... DOC HOODOO'S TALKIN' ON DE PHONE IN DE NEX' ROOM...

RING MY NUMBER AGAIN, OPERATOR!



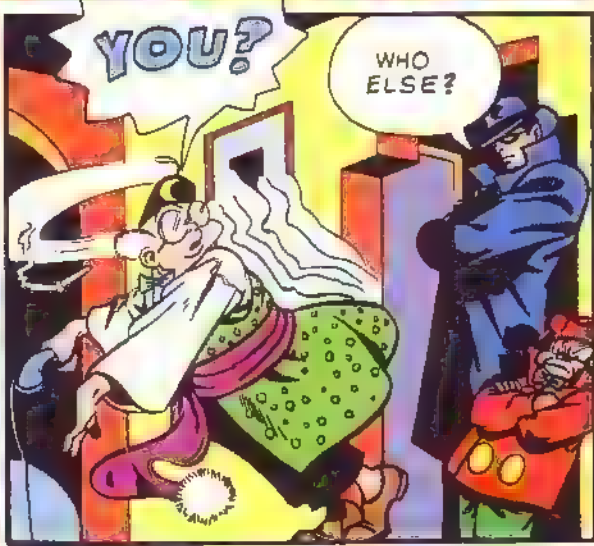
YES! I WISH TO SPEAK TO MISS ELLEN DOLAN!



THIS IS ELLEN DOLAN! ... WHO'S CALLING?



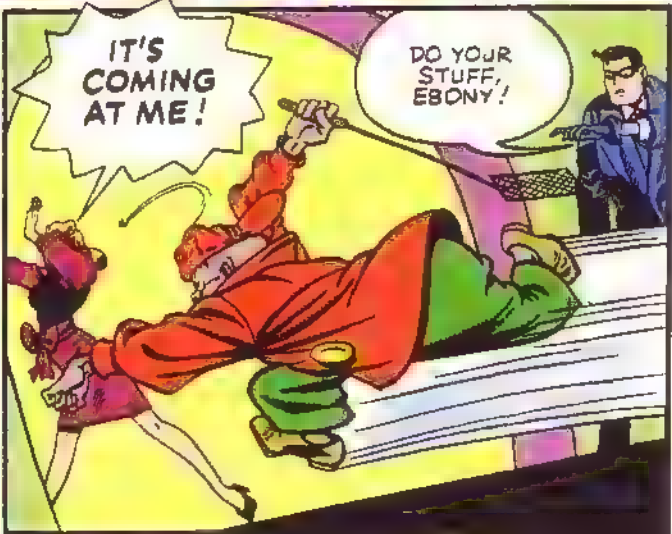
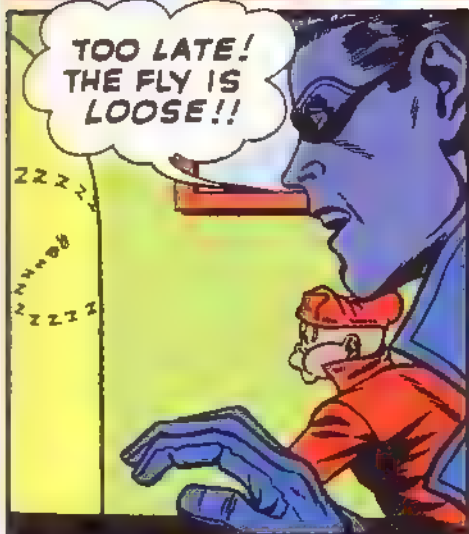
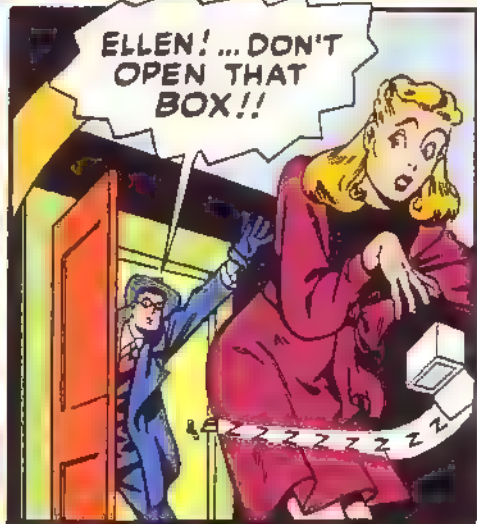
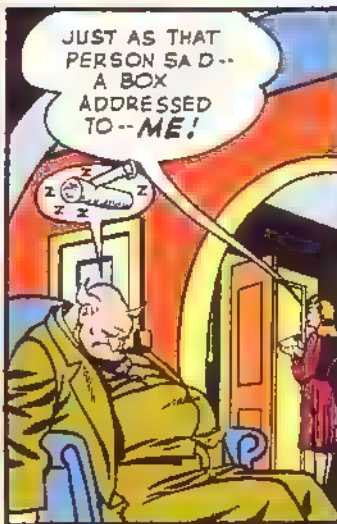
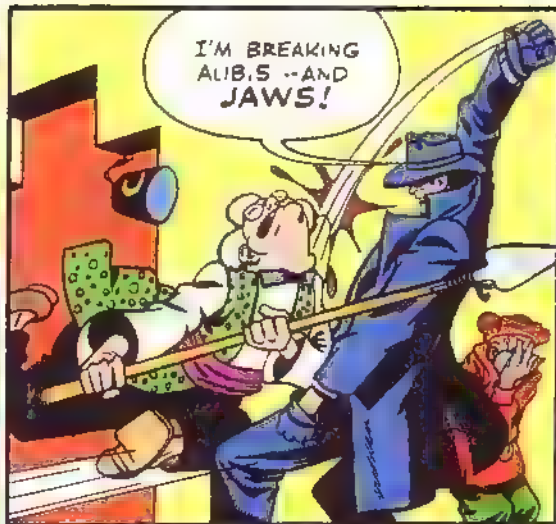
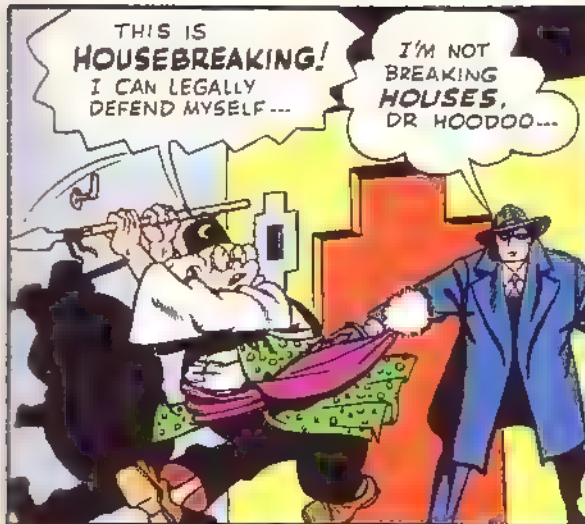
NEVER MIND WHO! THERE'S A PACKAGE IN YOUR MAILBOX --- IT WILL GIVE YOU ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE MYSTERIOUS MURDERS!

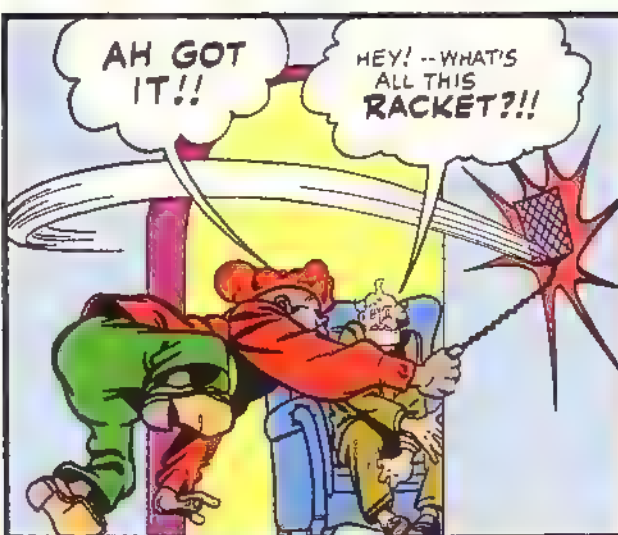


**YOU?**

WHO ELSE?







AH GOT IT!!

HEY! --WHAT'S ALL THIS RACKET?!!



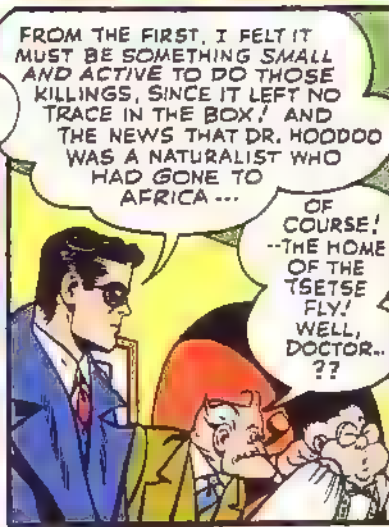
I JUST BROUGHT IN THE MURDERER, DOLAN!

I'VE BEEN BROUGHT IN, BEFORE --AND I'LL GET OUT AGAIN! YOU **CAN'T** SHOW HOW I KILL PEOPLE!



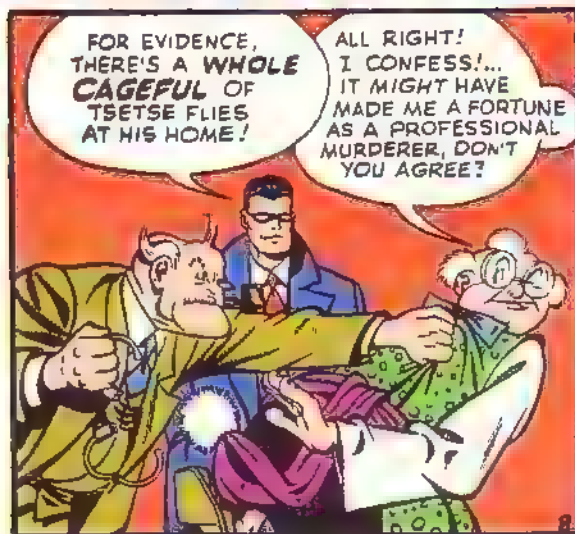
THIS TIME, I **CAN!**... LET ME HAVE THIS LITTLE HENCHMAN YOU SENT IN THAT BOX!

EBONY DIDN'T SWAT A COMMON FLY, BUT AN AFRICAN **TSETSE FLY!** SPECIALLY BRED BY DR. HOODOO SO THAT ITS BITE WAS **INSTANT DEATH!**



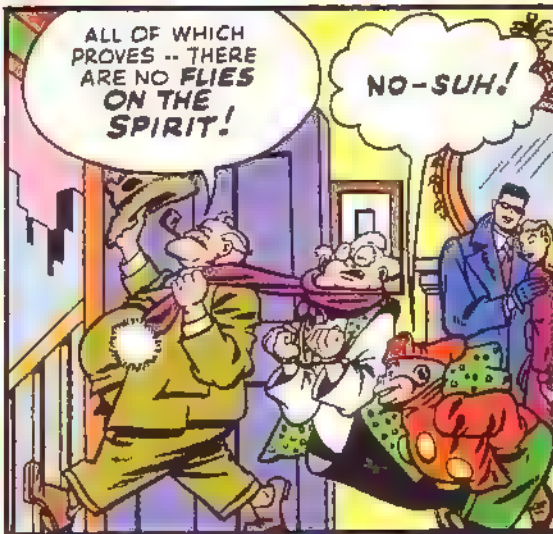
FROM THE FIRST, I FELT IT MUST BE SOMETHING SMALL AND ACTIVE TO DO THOSE KILLINGS, SINCE IT LEFT NO TRACE IN THE BOX! AND THE NEWS THAT DR. HOODOO WAS A NATURALIST WHO HAD GONE TO AFRICA --

OF COURSE! --THE HOME OF THE TSETSE FLY! WELL, DOCTOR... ??



FOR EVIDENCE, THERE'S A **WHOLE CAGEFUL** OF TSETSE FLIES AT HIS HOME!

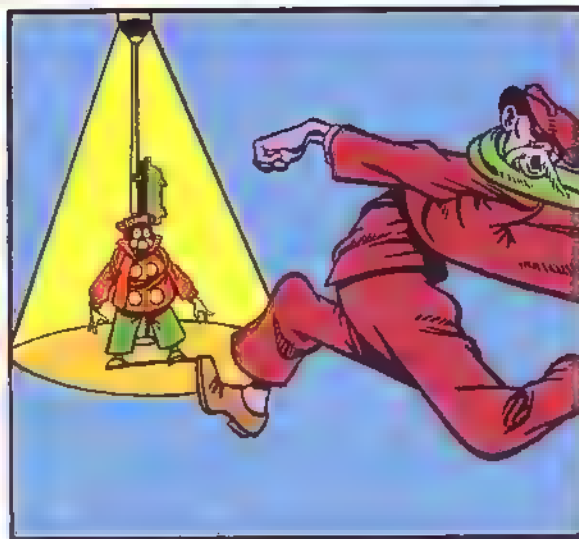
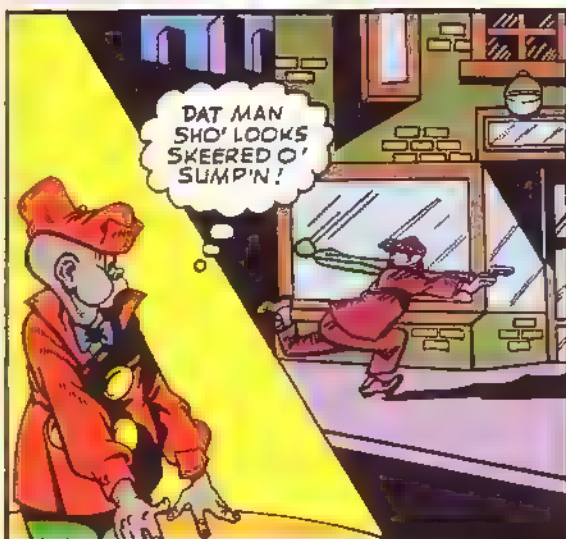
ALL RIGHT! I CONFESS!... IT MIGHT HAVE MADE ME A FORTUNE AS A PROFESSIONAL MURDERER, DON'T YOU AGREE?

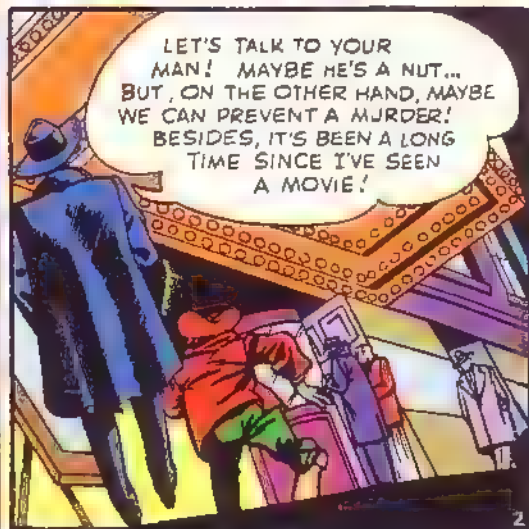
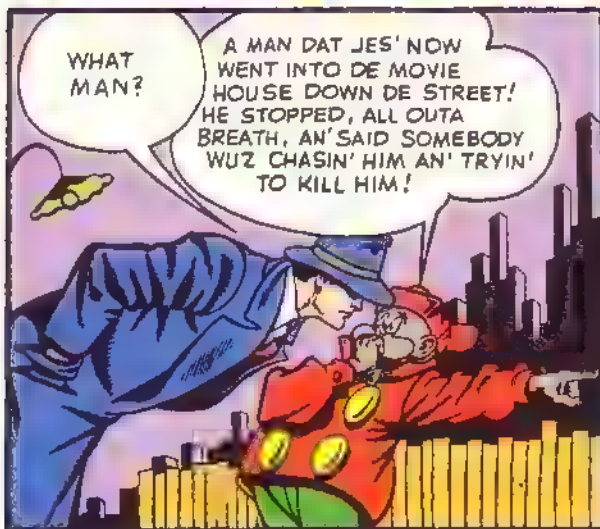
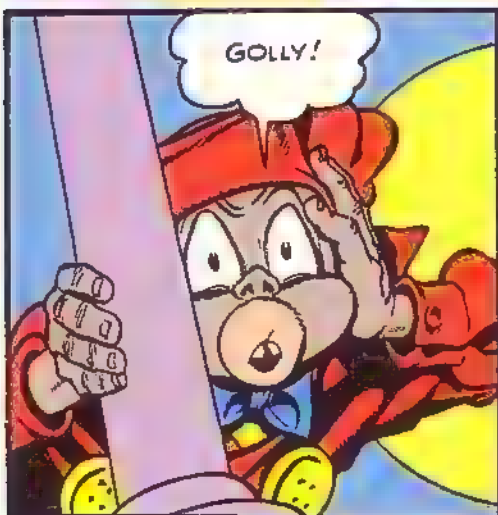


ALL OF WHICH PROVES -- THERE ARE NO **FLIES** ON THE **SPIRIT!**

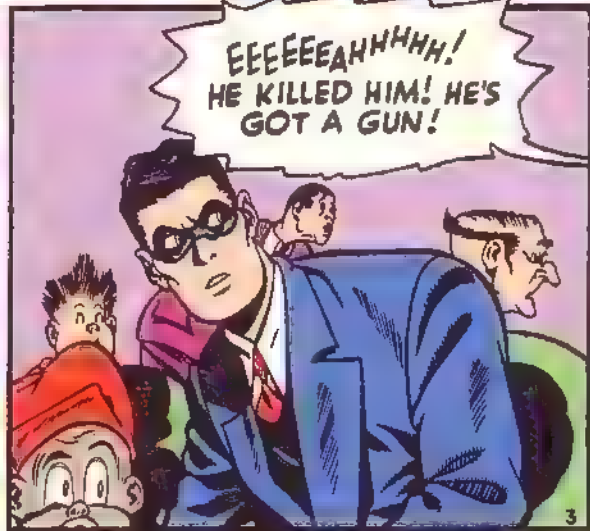
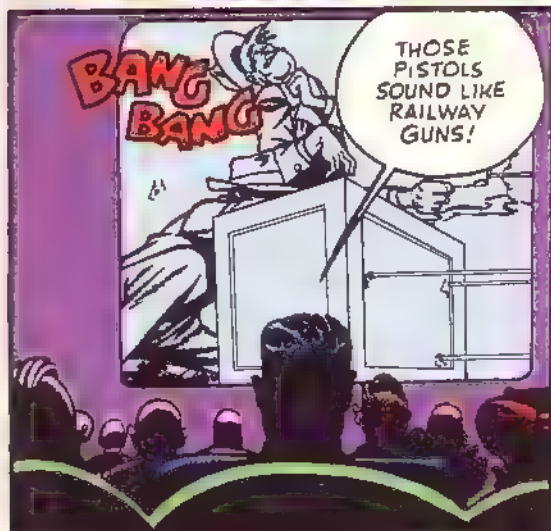
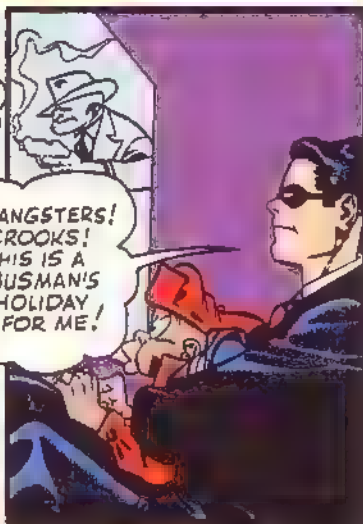
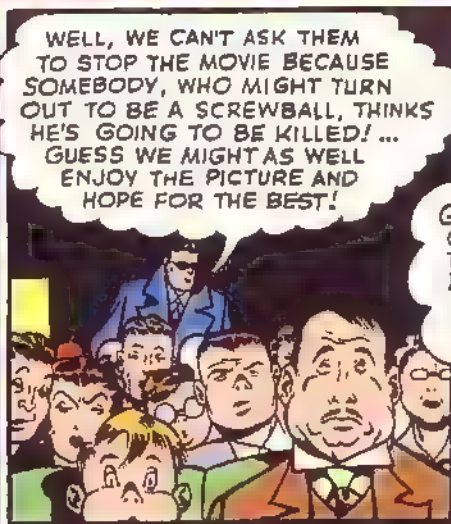
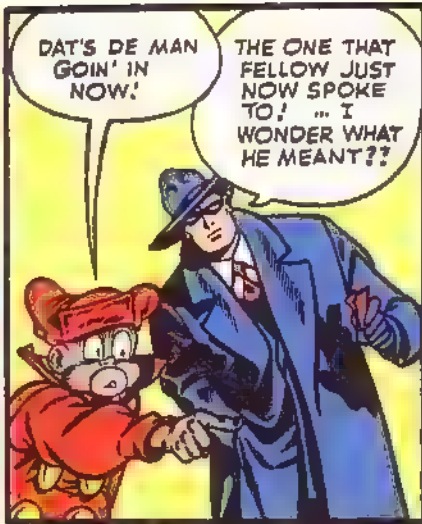
NO--SUH!

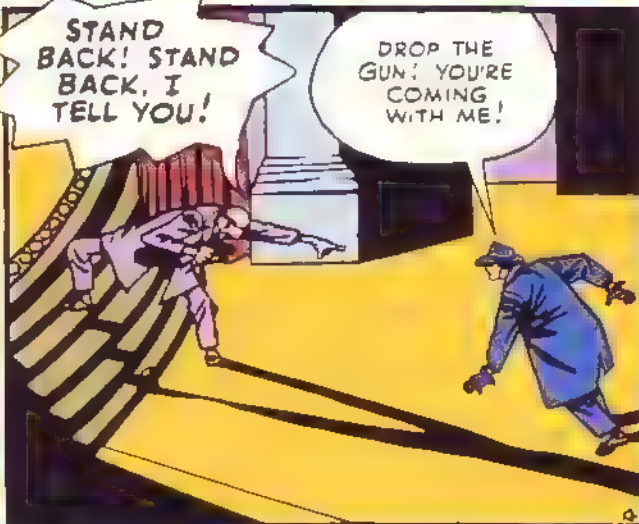
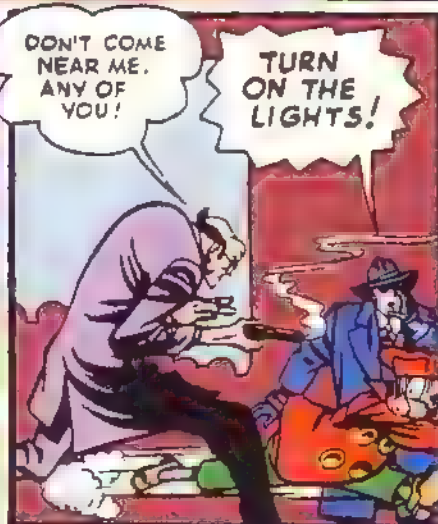
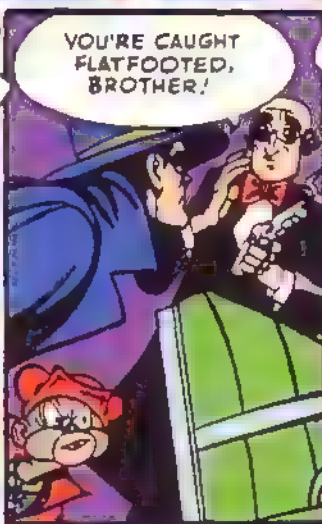
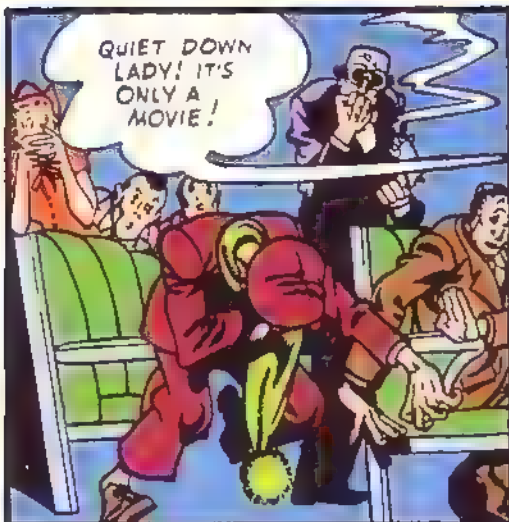




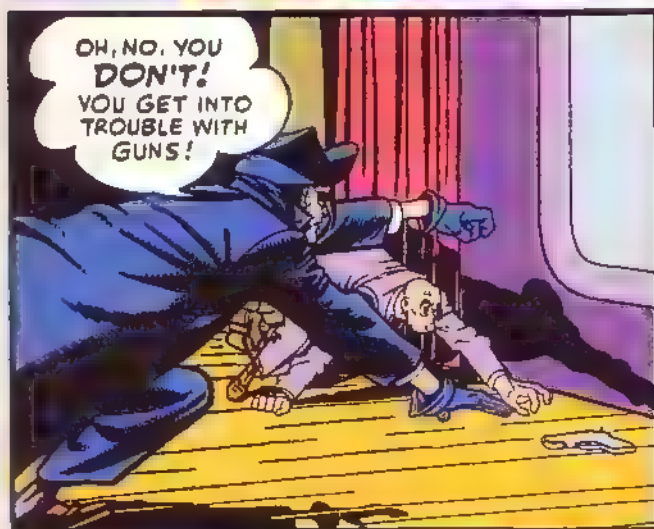
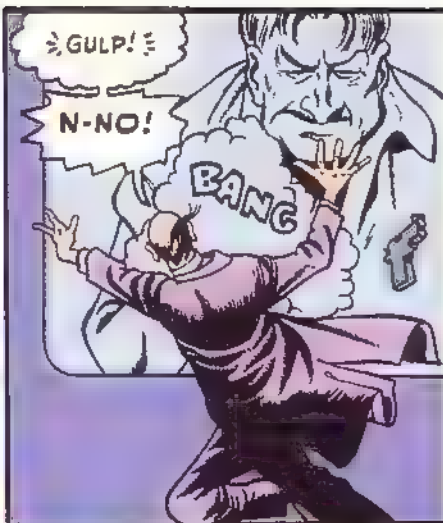












THE LIGHTS COME ON JUST AS THE POLICE ARRIVE IN RESPONSE TO A MOVIE PATRON'S CALL...

THE SPIRIT!  
I MIGHT HAVE KNOWN YOU WERE HERE WHEN THEY SAID THERE WAS A RIOT!

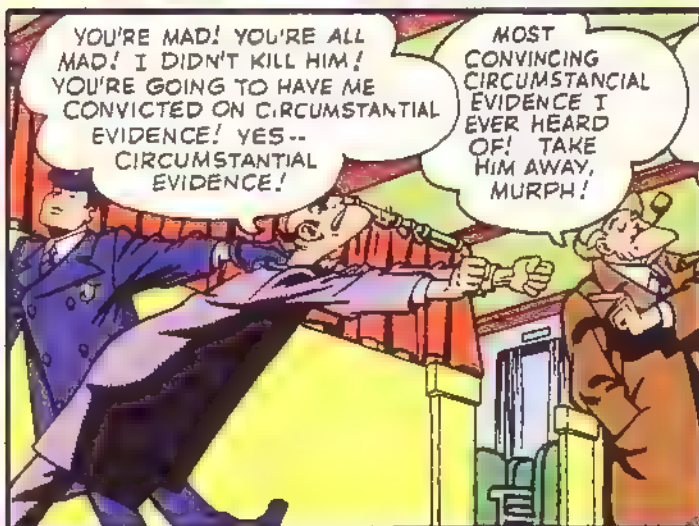
HELLO, DOLAN!  
HERE'S YOUR MURDERER!

DAT MAN KNEW HE WUZ GONNA BE KILLED!

SHOT HIM DURING A SHOOTING SCENE IN THE MOVIE!

GOOD THING YOU WERE ON THE SPOT, SPIRIT!...

GLAD TO HELP OUT, DOLAN!

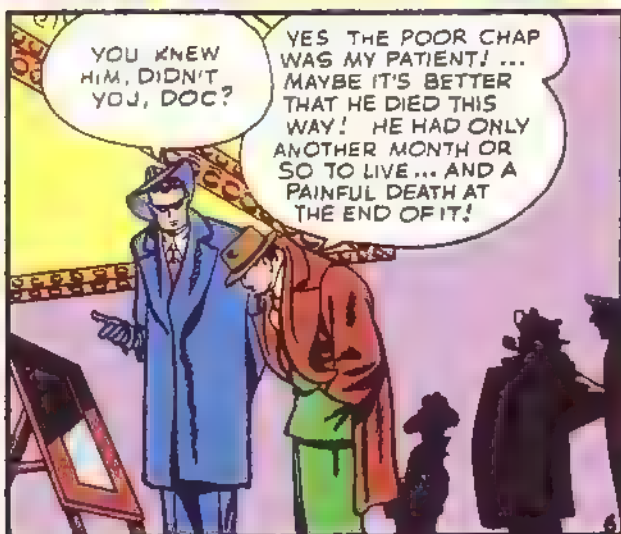


YOU'RE MAD! YOU'RE ALL MAD! I DIDN'T KILL HIM! YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE ME CONVICTED ON CIRCUMSTANTIAL EVIDENCE! YES-- CIRCUMSTANTIAL EVIDENCE!

MOST CONVINCING CIRCUMSTANTIAL EVIDENCE I EVER HEARD OF! TAKE HIM AWAY, MURPH!

YASSUH! HE CAME RUNNIN' UP TO ME, A-HUFFIN' AND PUFFIN'-- AN' SAID DAT MAN WAS GONNA KILL HIM!

THERE'S THE MAN WHO TALKED TO THE VICTIM! I WONDER WHAT HE WAS ABOUT TO SAY TO HIM!



YOU KNEW HIM, DIDN'T YOU, DOC?

YES THE POOR CHAP WAS MY PATIENT! ... MAYBE IT'S BETTER THAT HE DIED THIS WAY! HE HAD ONLY ANOTHER MONTH OR SO TO LIVE ... AND A PAINFUL DEATH AT THE END OF IT!

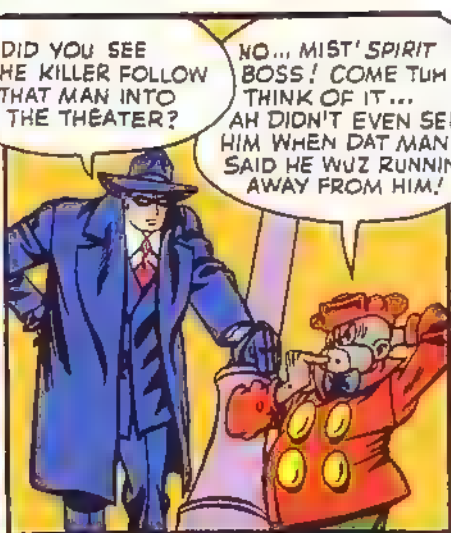


HE WAS SUFFERING FROM AN INCURABLE DISEASE! THAT'S WHY I WAS SURPRISED TO SEE HIM HERE TONIGHT! BUT I THINK HIS MIND WAS GOING, TOO! HE WOULDN'T EVEN TALK TO ME!





HOLY COW!  
WHY DIDN'T I  
THINK OF THAT  
BEFORE? ... HEY,  
EBONY!



DID YOU SEE  
THE KILLER FOLLOW  
THAT MAN INTO  
THE THEATER?

NO ... MIST' SPIRIT  
BOSS! COME TUM  
THINK OF IT ...  
AH DIDN'T EVEN SEE  
HIM WHEN DAT MAN  
SAID HE WUZ RUNNIN'  
AWAY FROM HIM!



DOLAN, HAS  
THE PRISONER  
MADE A  
STATEMENT,  
YET?

NO ... WE'RE  
LETTING  
HIM COOL  
OFF  
FIRST!

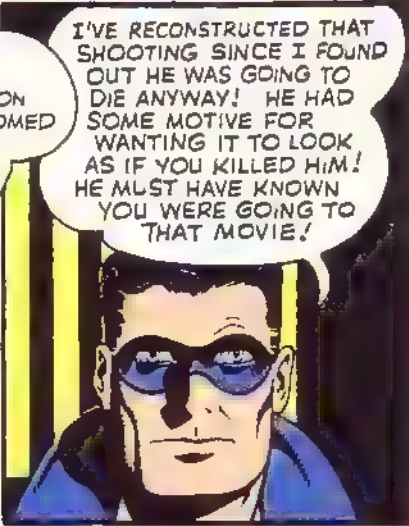


I'VE BEEN  
A SAP! LET'S  
TALK TO HIM!  
HE DIDN'T  
DO IT!

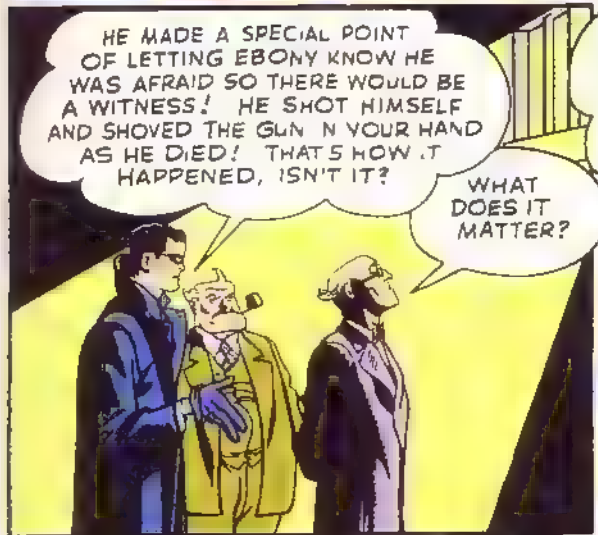
ARE YOU  
NUTS?  
YOU SAID  
HE DID!



I WANT TO APOLOGIZE!  
I WAS TOO HASTY! YOU  
COULDN'T HAVE KILLED HIM!  
HE'D HAVE SEEN YOU AS SOON  
AS HIS EYES GOT ACCUSTOMED  
TO THE DARKNESS AND  
HE'D HAVE RUN AWAY  
OR CRIED OUT!

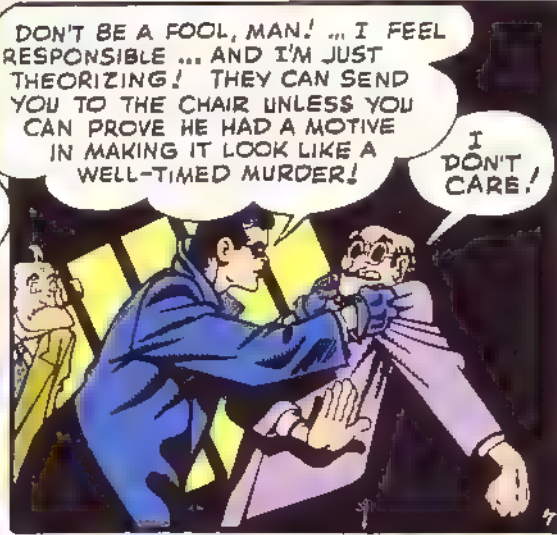


I'VE RECONSTRUCTED THAT  
SHOOTING SINCE I FOUND  
OUT HE WAS GOING TO  
DIE ANYWAY! HE HAD  
SOME MOTIVE FOR  
WANTING IT TO LOOK  
AS IF YOU KILLED HIM!  
HE MUST HAVE KNOWN  
YOU WERE GOING TO  
THAT MOVIE!



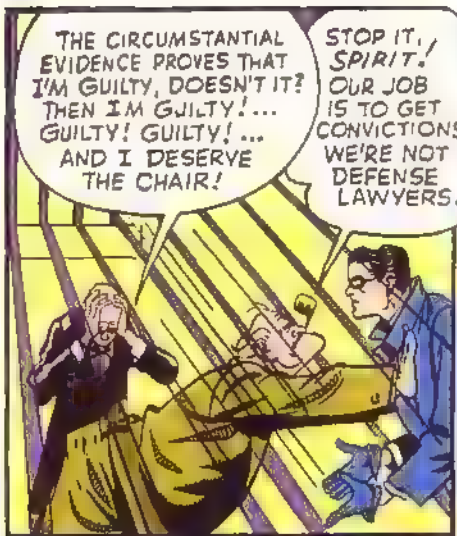
HE MADE A SPECIAL POINT  
OF LETTING EBONY KNOW HE  
WAS AFRAID SO THERE WOULD BE  
A WITNESS! HE SHOT HIMSELF  
AND SHOVED THE GUN IN YOUR HAND  
AS HE DIED! THAT'S HOW IT  
HAPPENED, ISN'T IT?

WHAT  
DOES IT  
MATTER?



DON'T BE A FOOL, MAN! ... I FEEL  
RESPONSIBLE ... AND I'M JUST  
THEORIZING! THEY CAN SEND  
YOU TO THE CHAIR UNLESS YOU  
CAN PROVE HE HAD A MOTIVE  
IN MAKING IT LOOK LIKE A  
WELL-TIMED MURDER!

I  
DON'T  
CARE!



THE CIRCUMSTANTIAL EVIDENCE PROVES THAT I'M GUILTY, DOESN'T IT? THEN I'M GUILTY!... GUILTY! GUILTY!... AND I DESERVE THE CHAIR!

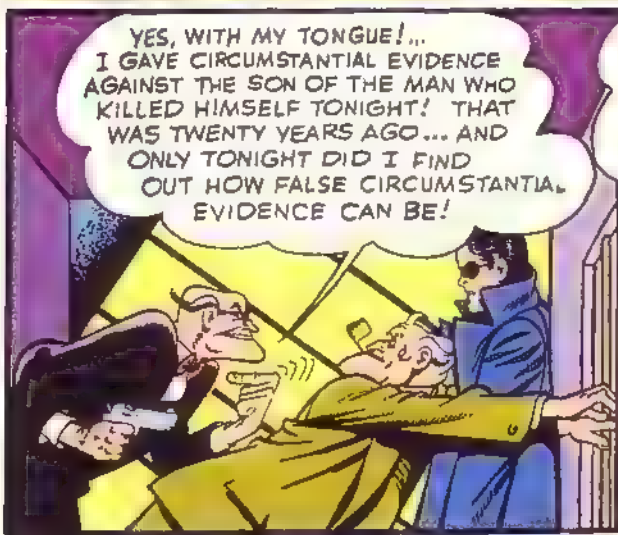
STOP IT, SPIRIT! OUR JOB IS TO GET CONVICTIONS! WE'RE NOT DEFENSE LAWYERS!



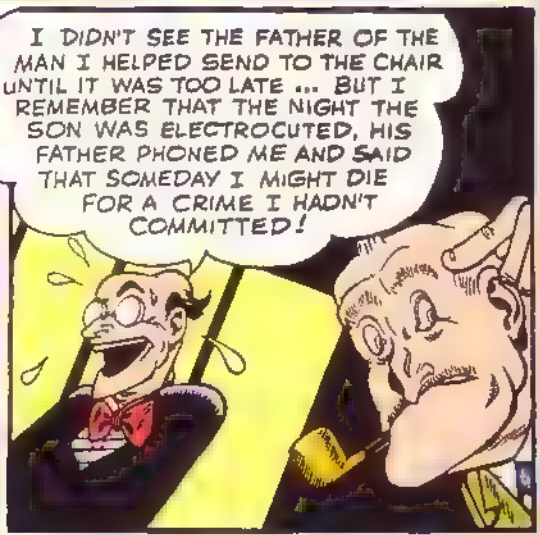
LOOK OUT, DOLAN!... HE'S GOT YOUR !! GUN !!



DON'T WORRY! I'M NOT GOING TO KILL YOU! I'VE NEVER KILLED ANYBODY WITH MY OWN HANDS YET! BUT I HAVE WITH MY TONGUE!



YES, WITH MY TONGUE!... I GAVE CIRCUMSTANTIAL EVIDENCE AGAINST THE SON OF THE MAN WHO KILLED HIMSELF TONIGHT! THAT WAS TWENTY YEARS AGO... AND ONLY TONIGHT DID I FIND OUT HOW FALSE CIRCUMSTANTIAL EVIDENCE CAN BE!

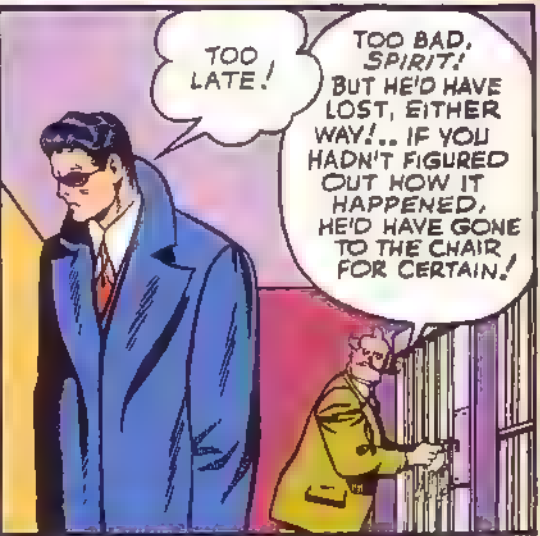


I DIDN'T SEE THE FATHER OF THE MAN I HELPED SEND TO THE CHAIR UNTIL IT WAS TOO LATE ... BUT I REMEMBER THAT THE NIGHT THE SON WAS ELECTROCUTED, HIS FATHER PHONED ME AND SAID THAT SOMEDAY I MIGHT DIE FOR A CRIME I HADN'T COMMITTED!



FOR TWENTY YEARS, MY MIND HAS BEEN TORTURED BY DOUBTS! NOW I KNOW THE TERRIBLE THING I DID! ... I WON'T LIVE WITH IT ON MY MIND ANY LONGER!

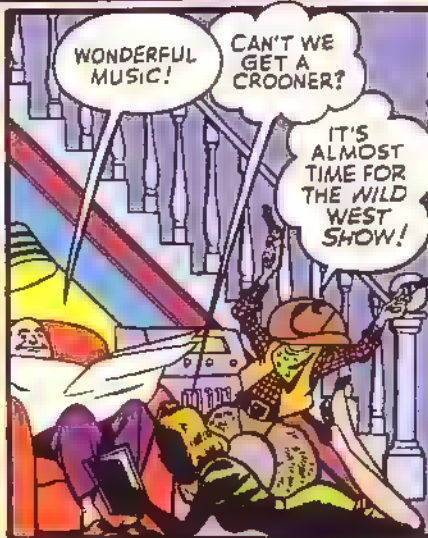
NO!... DON'T!

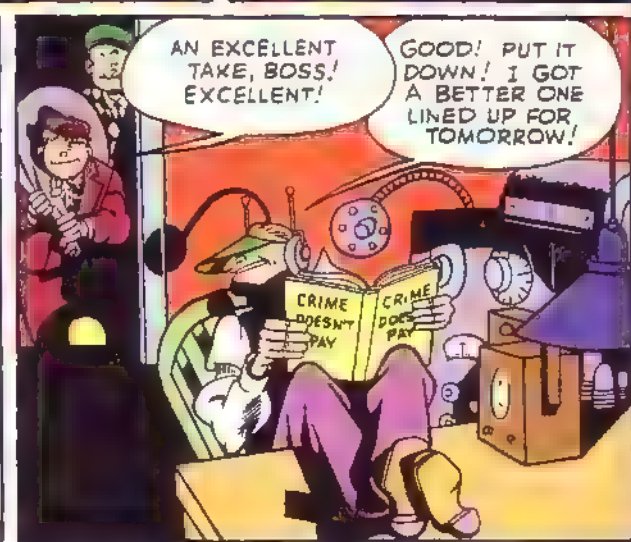
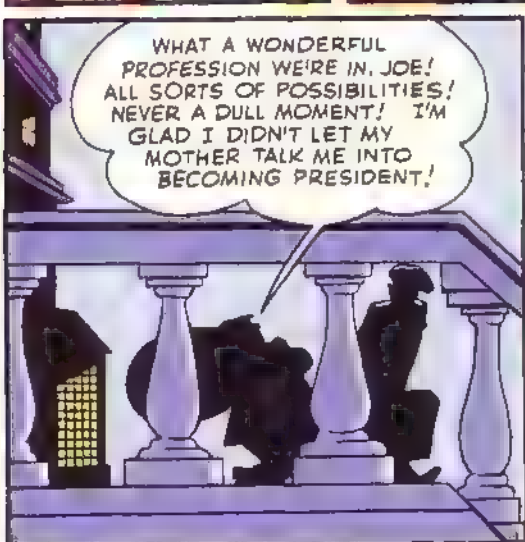
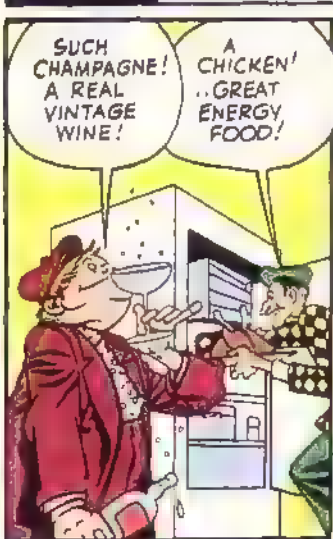
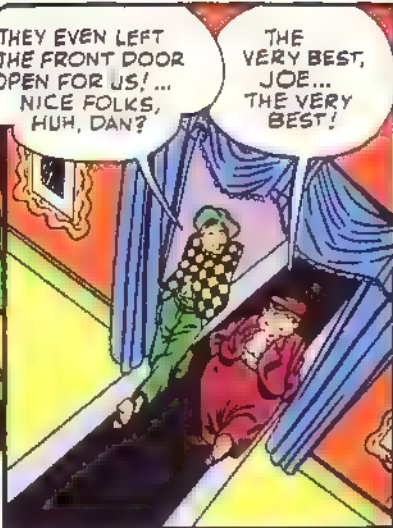
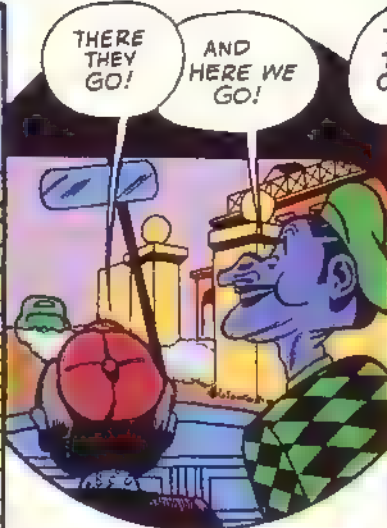


TOO LATE!

TOO BAD, SPIRIT! BUT HE'D HAVE LOST, EITHER WAY!.. IF YOU HADN'T FIGURED OUT HOW IT HAPPENED, HE'D HAVE GONE TO THE CHAIR FOR CERTAIN!









**N**EXT MORNING IN COMMISSIONER  
DOLAN'S OFFICE...

WE  
DEMAND AN  
EXPLANATION!

HUH?...  
OF  
WHAT?

THE  
FLOOD?

FLOOD?

FLOOD?

EXACTLY!  
OR RATHER  
THE ABSENCE  
OF A  
FLOOD!

AND THE  
ABSENCE OF  
MY JEWELS  
AND THE FAMILY  
PLATE - AND  
MY FURS!

WE DROVE ALL  
NIGHT TO GET AWAY  
FROM THE FLOOD! ...  
AND THEN WE LEARNED  
THAT THERE HADN'T  
BEEN A FLOOD IN  
CENTRAL CITY -- AND  
WHEN WE GOT BACK,  
WHAT DID WE  
FIND?

YOUR  
HOUSE  
HAD BEEN  
ROBBED,  
CLEANED OUT,  
BURGLARIZED!

YOU'VE OBVIOUSLY  
BEEN CHEATED! IF  
THE RADIO SAID  
THERE WAS GOING  
TO BE A FLOOD,  
THERE SHOULD  
HAVE BEEN A  
FLOOD! AT ANY RATE,  
YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE  
BEEN ROBBED! ...  
SOMETHING WILL BE  
DONE ABOUT IT!

AND IT  
HAD BETTER  
BE DONE  
QUICKLY!

NOW, WHAT DO  
YOU MAKE OF  
THAT? NOBODY  
ELSE IN TOWN  
HEARD THAT  
PHONY  
REPORT ON  
THE RADIO!

MAYBE  
THE  
SACKETTS  
MISIN-  
TERPRETED  
PART OF A  
RADIO  
SKETCH,  
TOOK TO  
THE ROAD ...  
AND THE ROBBERY  
WAS A  
COINCIDENCE!

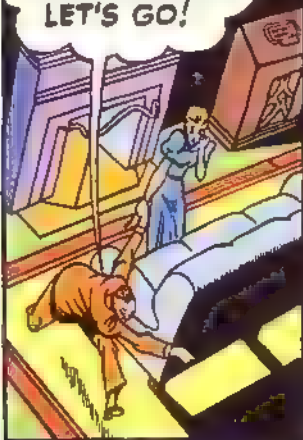
AREN'T YOU GOING  
TO TELL THE NEWSPAPERS  
ABOUT THE KIND OF POLICE  
PROTECTION WE GET  
IN THIS TOWN?

WHAT?  
AND MAKE  
MYSELF LOOK  
LIKE AN  
IDIOT?

**T**HAT EVENING IN THE HOME OF THE  
WEALTHY HODSON FAMILY ...

... FLASH! THE SEISMOGRAPH  
IN THE CENTRAL UNIVERSITY  
OBSERVATORY INDICATES THAT  
AN EARTHQUAKE OF GREAT  
SEVERITY WILL STRIKE  
CENTRAL CITY IN HALF  
AN HOUR!

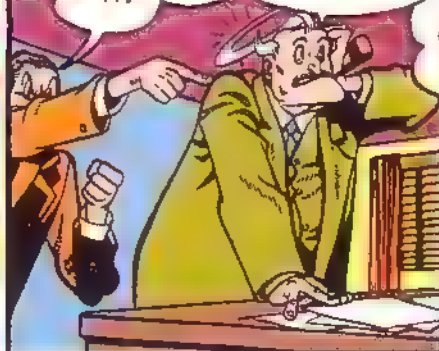
AN  
EARTHQUAKE!...  
LET'S GO!



AND NEXT MORNING...

WE DEMAND  
THAT SOMETHING  
BE DONE ABOUT  
IT!

FLOODS!  
EARTHQUAKES!  
BURGLARIES!



THE FOLLOWING DAY...

YOU HEARD ME,  
COMMISSIONER!  
WE GOT THIS FLASH  
ON THE RADIO ABOUT  
A TORNADO HITTING  
CENTRAL CITY! WE  
LEFT TOWN... AND  
WHEN WE RETURNED--

I KNOW!  
YOUR  
HOUSE  
HAD BEEN  
ROBBED!



IT'S TOO MUCH  
FOR ME! HOW CAN  
THEY GET THOSE  
BROADCASTS INTO  
ONLY ONE HOUSE  
AT A TIME?

WIF  
SPECIAL  
EQUIPMENT!

HUH?



YASSUH, MIST' SPIRIT  
BOSS, AH BEEN READIN'  
SOME O' YO BOOKS ON  
RADIO ... AN AH THINK  
AH KNOWS HOW TO  
CRACK DIS HYAH  
CASE!

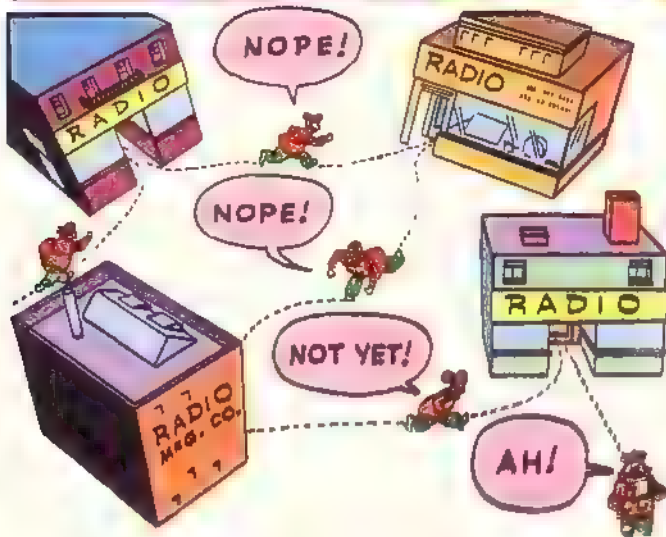


NOPE!

NOPE!

NOT YET!

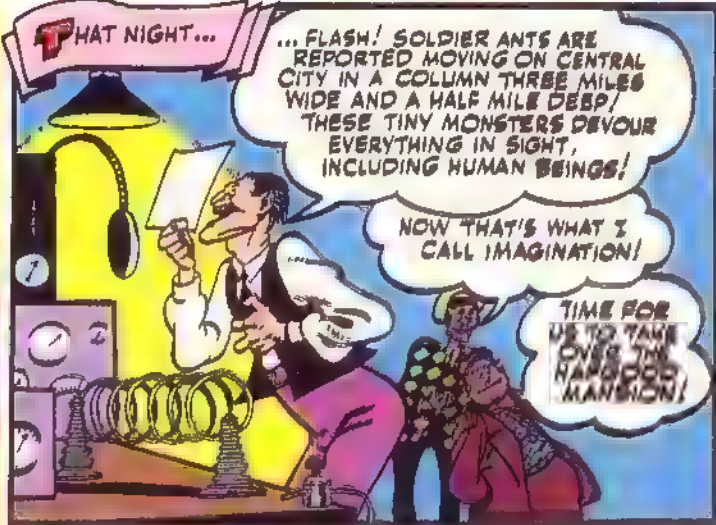
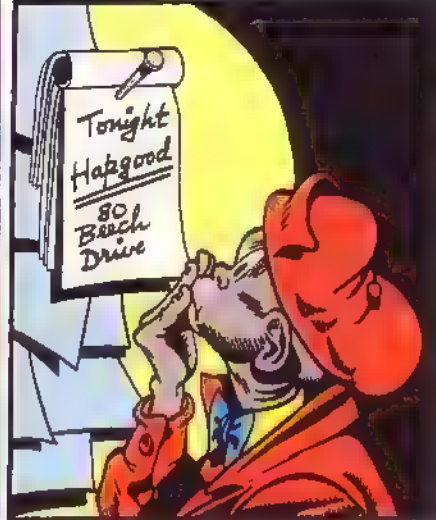
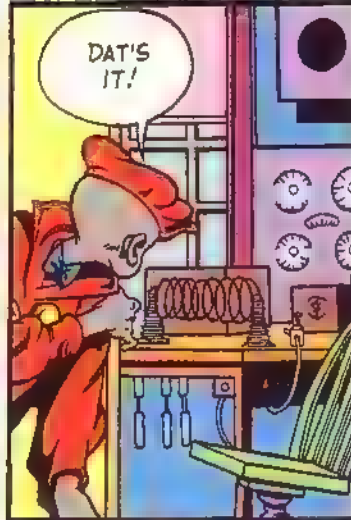
AH!



DAT'S WHEAH DEY BOUGHT  
DE SPECIAL EQUIPMENT! AN DEY  
WUZ PRETTY SAPPY TO HAVE IT  
DELIVERED, 'CAUSE NOW AH'S  
GOT DE ADDRESS! SOMETIMES  
CROOKS IS TOO SURE OB  
DEMSELVES!







**B**UT THE **SPIRIT** DOESN'T KNOW THE HALF OF IT ... FOR AT THAT MOMENT IN THOUSANDS OF HOMES IN CENTRAL CITY ...

SOLDIER ANTS! THEY EAT YOU DOWN TO THE BONE IN THREE MINUTES!

EEEEEEEEKK!  
GET THE CAR!  
QUICK!

WE WON'T STOP DRIVING TILL WE GET TO MY MOTHER'S HOUSE! THAT'S FIVE HUNDRED MILES FROM HERE!

YOUR MOTHER'S HOUSE? WELL, NOW ... HOW DO WE REALLY KNOW THESE SOLDIER ANTS ARE SO BAD? ... THEY MIGHT EVEN TURN OUT TO BE FRIENDLY LITTLE FELLERS!

RUN FOR YOUR LIVES! SOLDIER ANTS ARE TAKING OVER CENTRAL CITY!

LET'S GET OUT OF TOWN!

WHAT...? THEY ALL KNOW ABOUT IT!

WAIT A MINUTE, FOLKS! THERE'S BEEN SOME MISTAKE! DON'T START A PANIC!

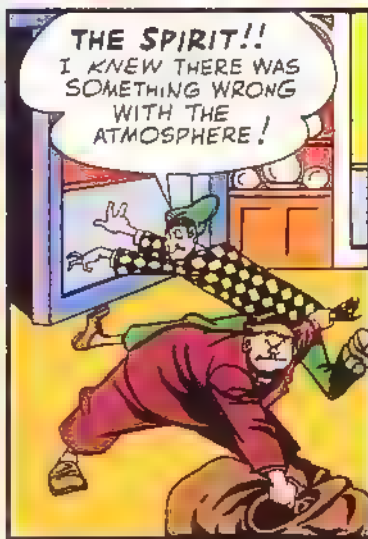
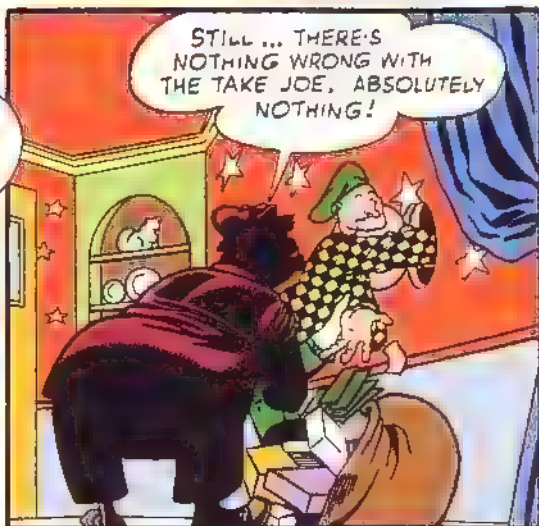
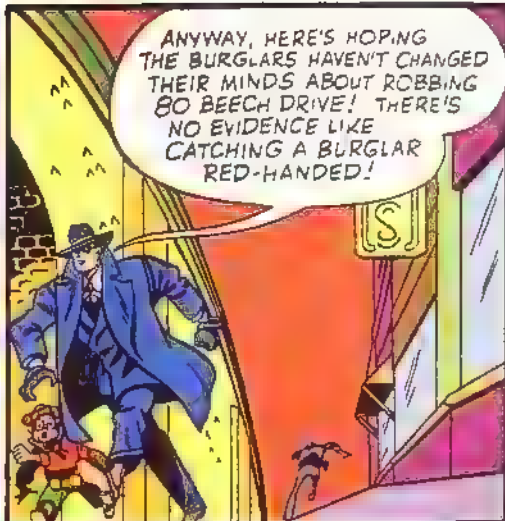
ONE SIDE, BUDDY! MAYBE THE SOLDIER ANTS'LL HAVE TIME TO LISTEN TO YOU!

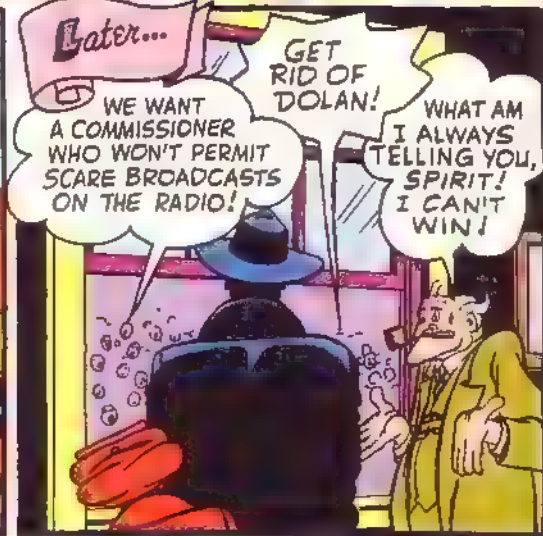
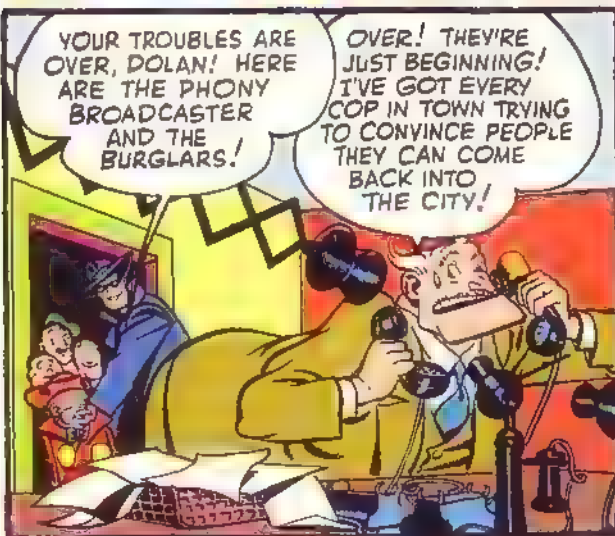
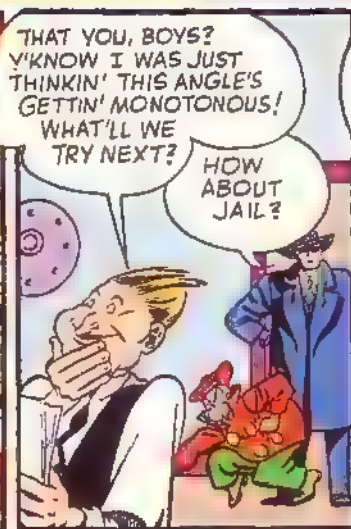
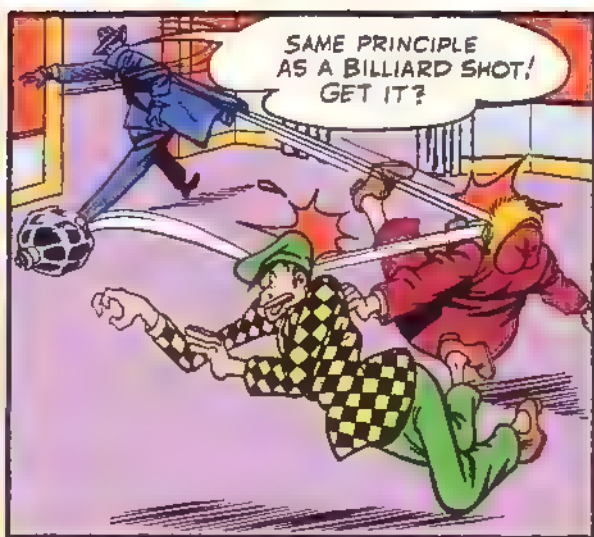
WHERE'S EVERYBODY GOING, JOE?

THERE'S A SWELL PICTURE AT THE BIJOU TONIGHT! YOU KNOW THE WAY WENDY LATARR PACKS 'EM IN!

ON BEECH DRIVE...









COMIC  
BOOK  
SECTION

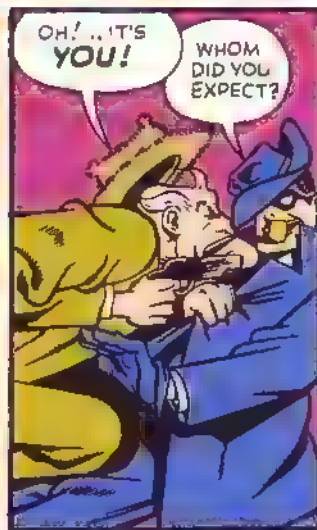
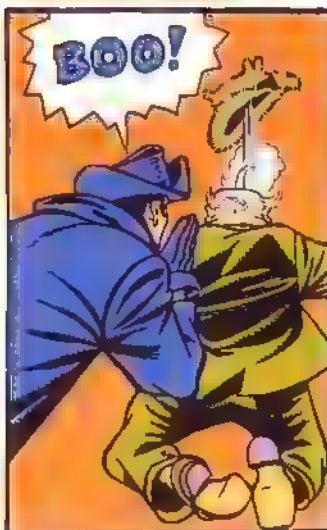
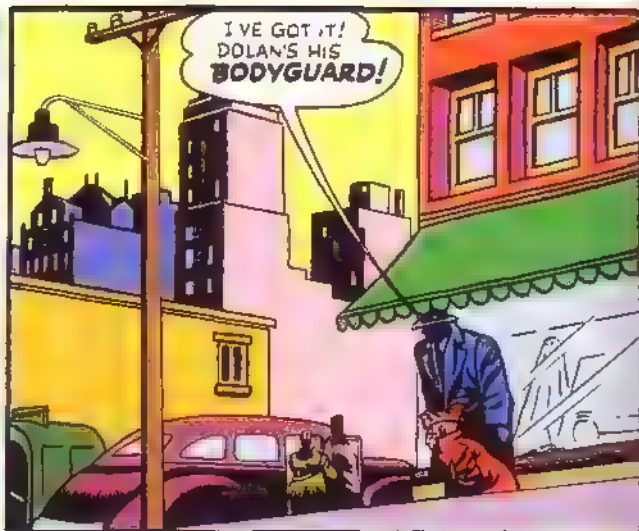
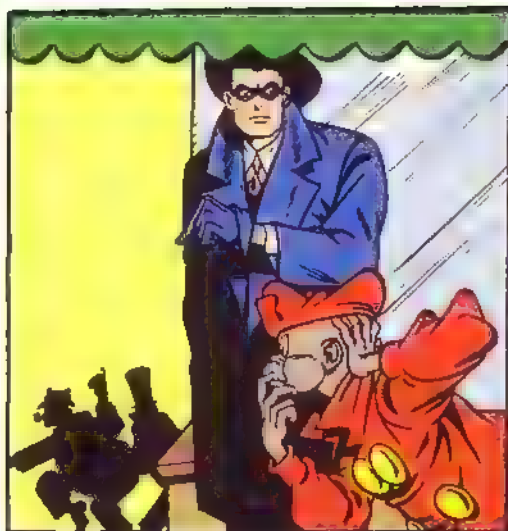
MAN O' WAR

February 13, 1944

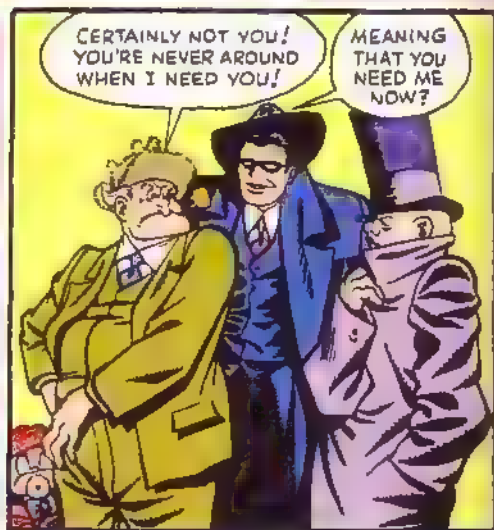
ACTION  
Mystery  
ADVENTURE

# The Spirit

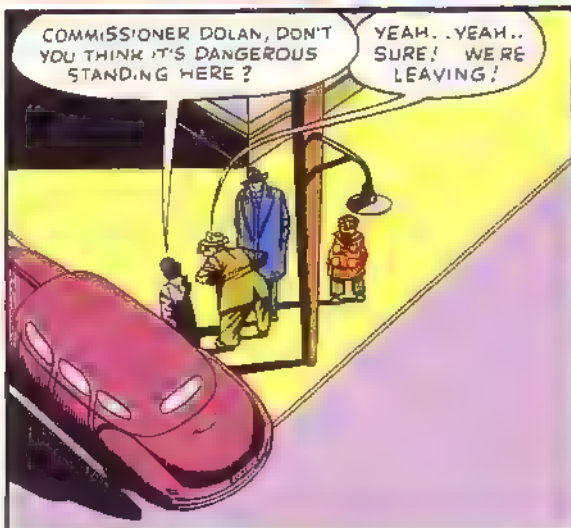




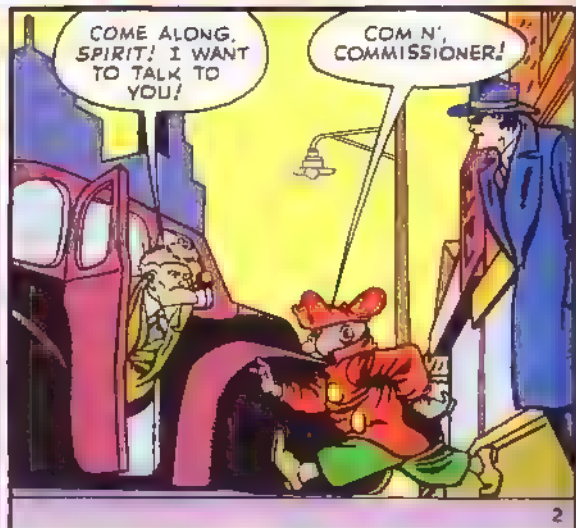
WHOM  
DID YOU  
EXPECT?



MEANING  
THAT YOU  
NEED ME  
NOW?

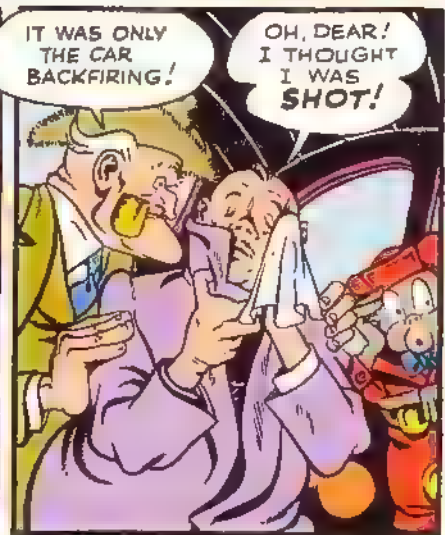
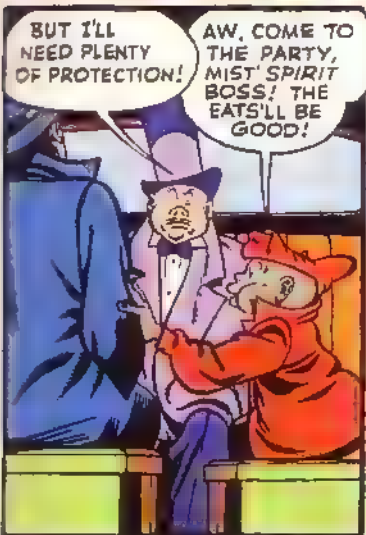
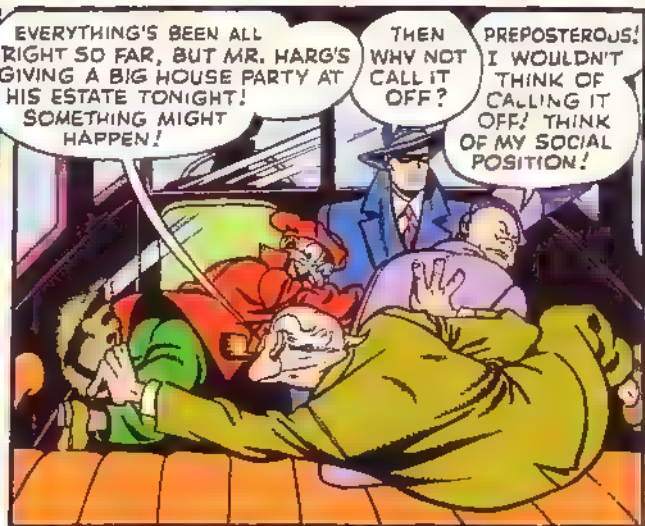
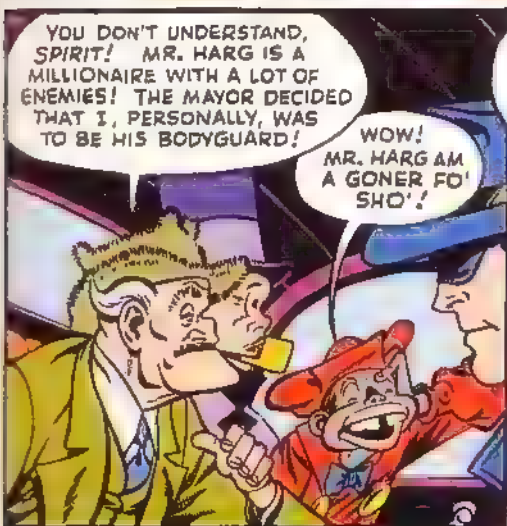
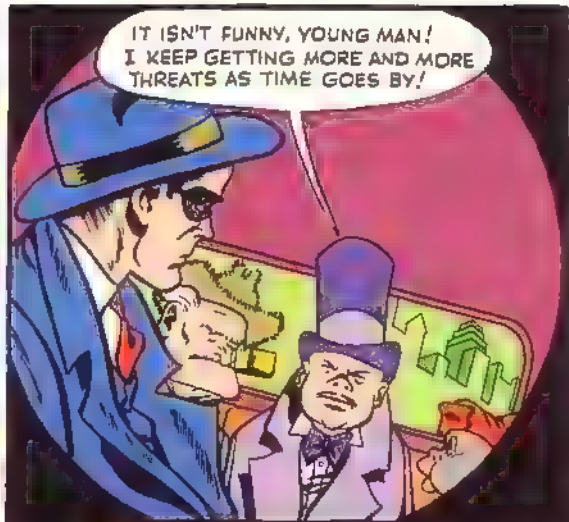
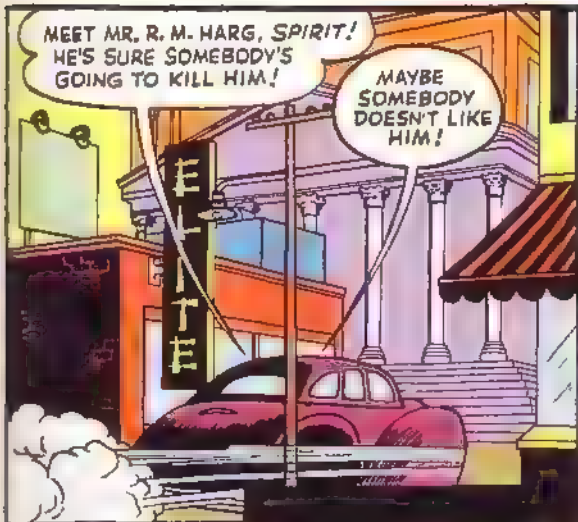


YEAH...YEAH..  
SURE! WE'RE  
LEAVING!

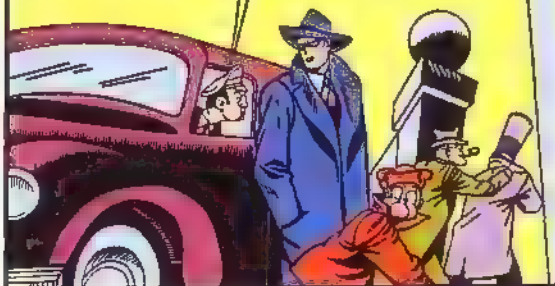


COM N',  
COMMISSIONER!



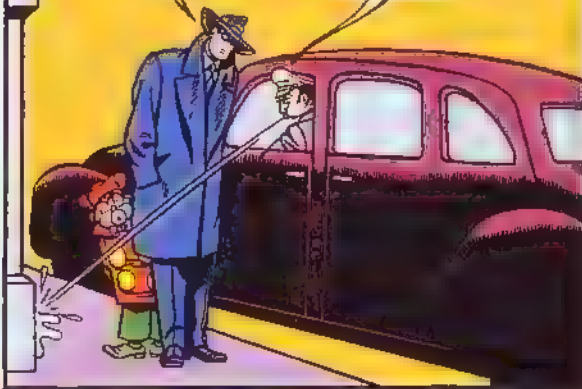


THE OLD BUZZARD! IT'D SERVE HIM RIGHT IF SOMEBODY DID PLUG HIM! THIS LIZZIE BACKFIRES BECAUSE HE WON'T SPEND THE DOUGH TO HAVE THE CARBON CLEANED OUT OF THE ENGINE! YET HE'LL SPEND FIFTY GRAND FOR A PARTY TO KEEP UP HIS FRONT!



YOU DON'T LIKE HIM, EH?

LIKE HIM? I HATE HIM! I WISH HE WERE DEAD!



MIST SPIRIT BOSS, DAT CHAUFFEUR MAN AM A SUSPECT!

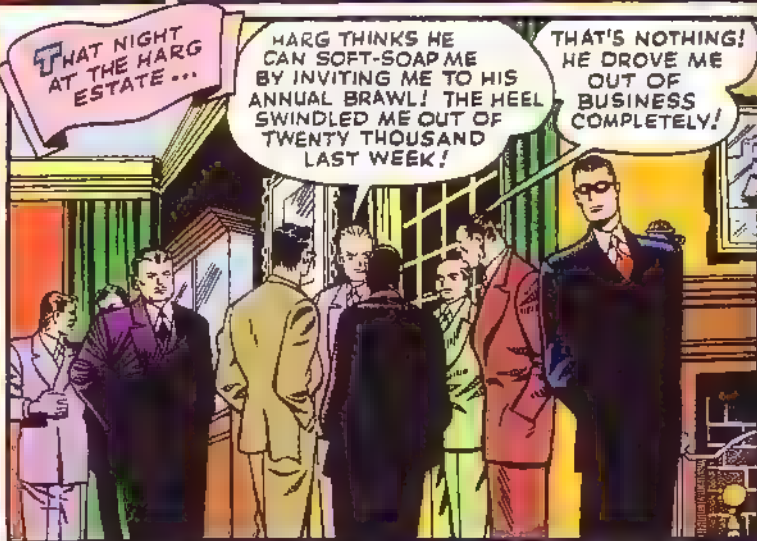
EXCELLENT DEDUCTION, MY DEAR EBONY!



THAT NIGHT AT THE HARG ESTATE ...

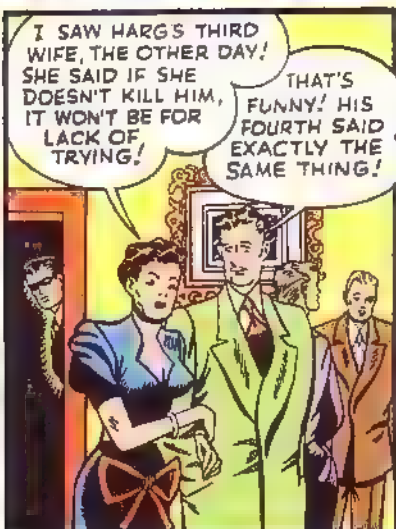
HARG THINKS HE CAN SOFT-SOAP ME BY INVITING ME TO HIS ANNUAL BRAWL! THE HEEL SWINDLED ME OUT OF TWENTY THOUSAND LAST WEEK!

THAT'S NOTHING! HE DROVE ME OUT OF BUSINESS COMPLETELY!



I SAW HARG'S THIRD WIFE, THE OTHER DAY! SHE SAID IF SHE DOESN'T KILL HIM, IT WON'T BE FOR LACK OF TRYING!

THAT'S FUNNY! HIS FOURTH SAID EXACTLY THE SAME THING!

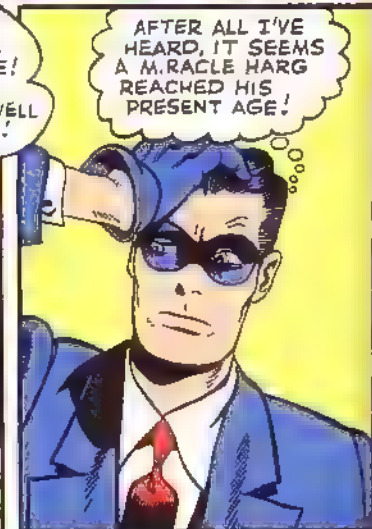


THERE GOES HARG, THE TWO-FACED HYPOCRITE! I HATE THE SIGHT OF HIM!

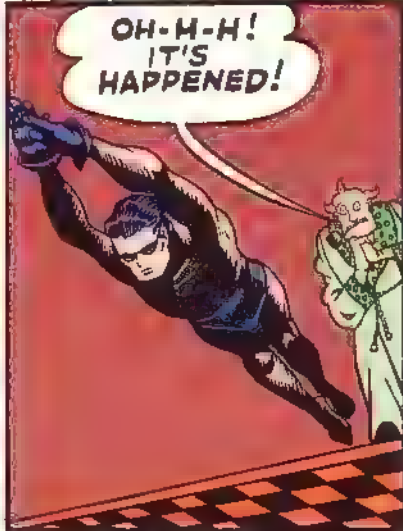
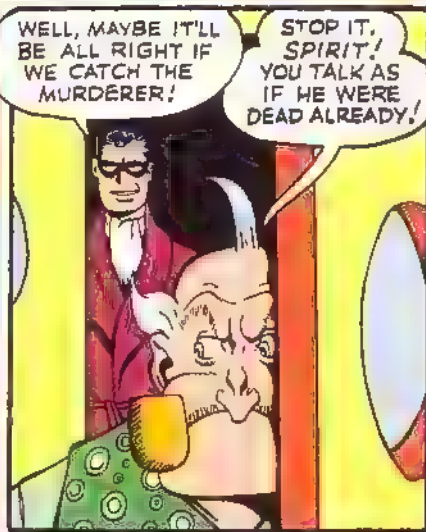
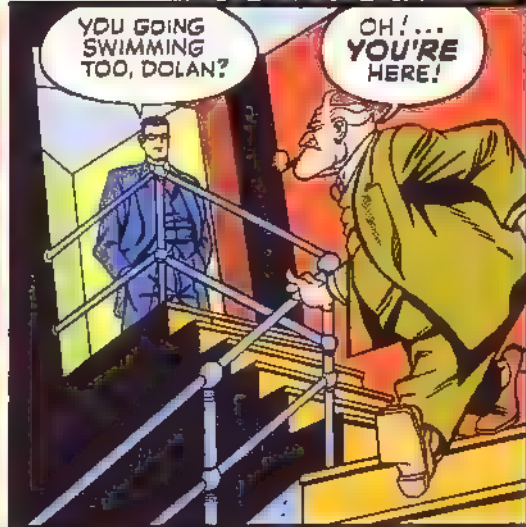
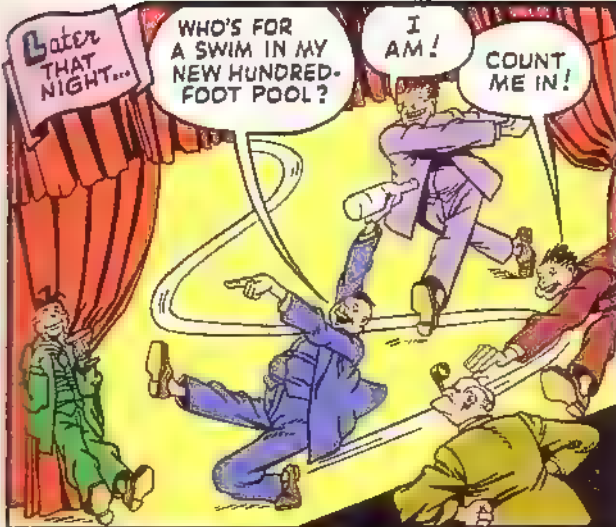
YOU'RE NOT THE ONLY ONE! BUT HE THROWS SWELL PARTIES!



AFTER ALL I'VE HEARD, IT SEEMS A M.RACLE HARG REACHED HIS PRESENT AGE!









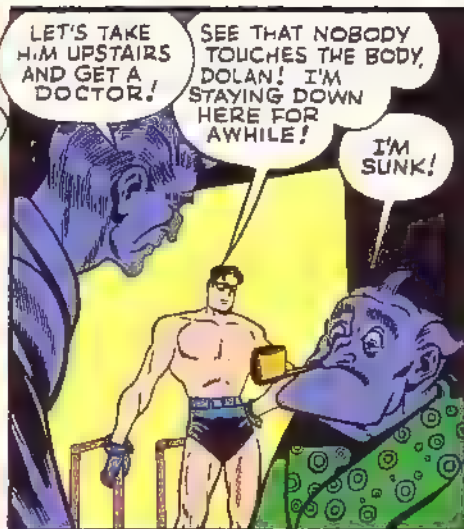
LEND  
A HAND  
HERE!



THE POOR  
CHAP'S  
DEAD!

BUT HOW  
DID IT  
HAPPEN?

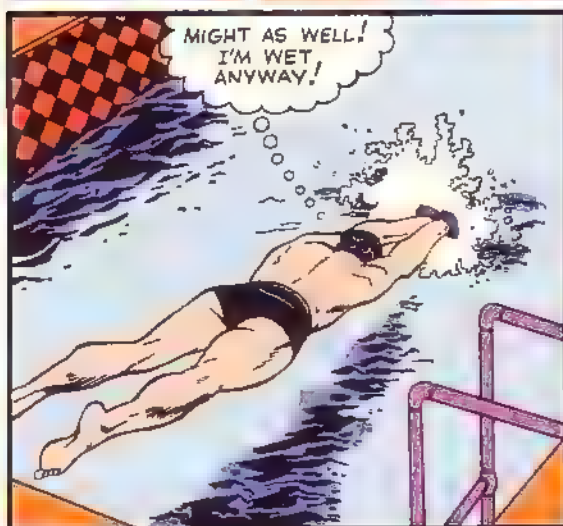
THAT  
REMAINS  
TO BE  
DISCOVERED!



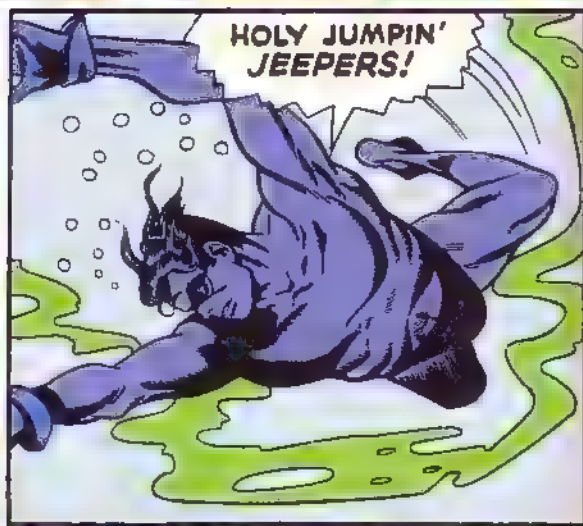
LET'S TAKE  
HIM UPSTAIRS  
AND GET A  
DOCTOR!

SEE THAT NOBODY  
TOUCHES THE BODY,  
DOLAN! I'M  
STAYING DOWN  
HERE FOR  
AWHILE!

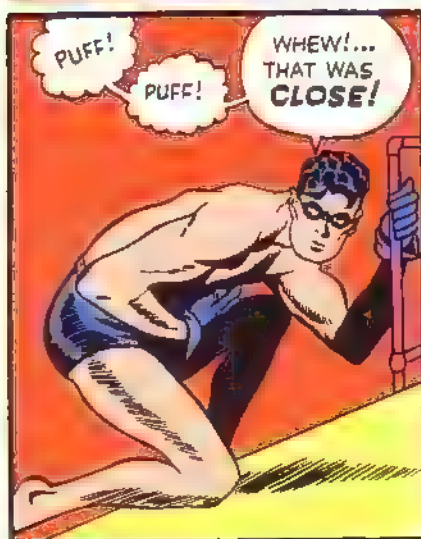
I'M  
SUNK!



MIGHT AS WELL!  
I'M WET  
ANYWAY!



HOLY JUMPIN'  
JEEPERS!



PUFF!

PUFF!

WHEW!...  
THAT WAS  
CLOSE!



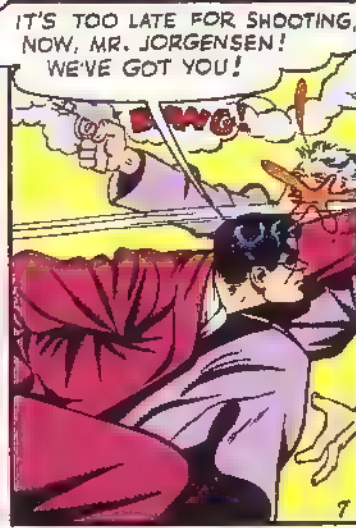
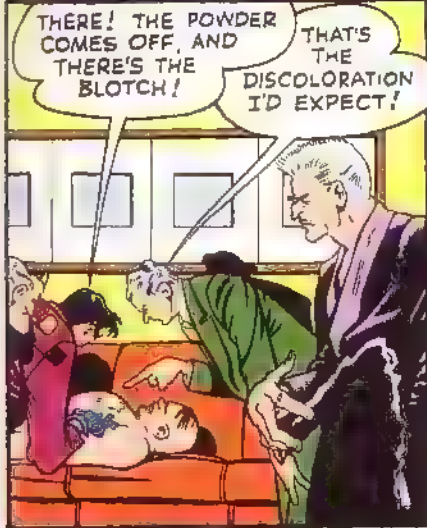
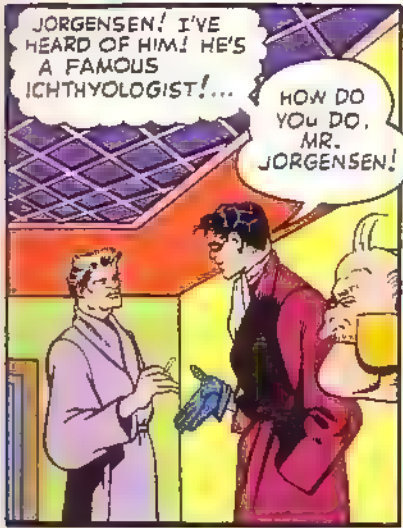
HMMMMMMMM!  
VERY  
INTERESTING!

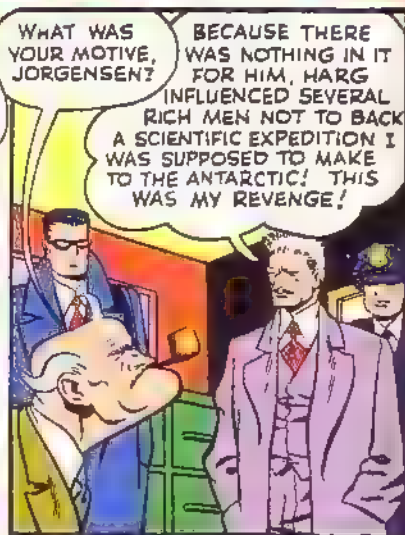
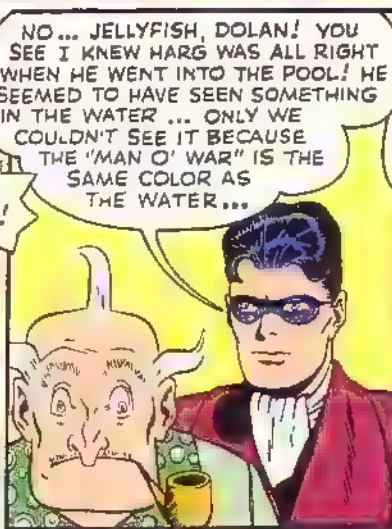
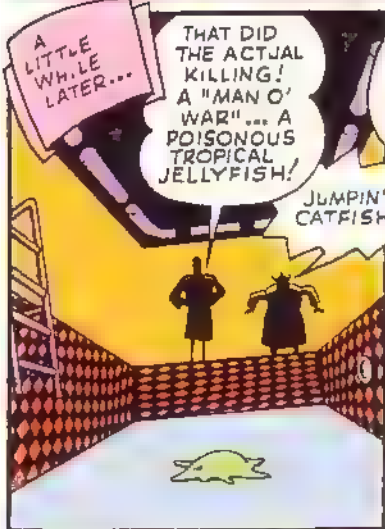
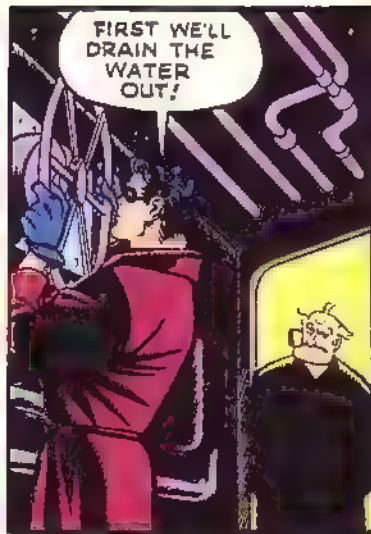
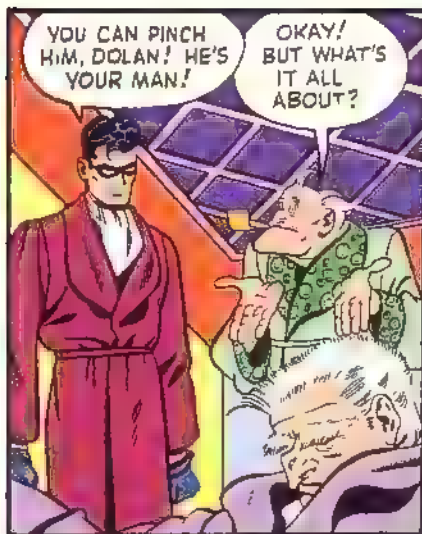


BZZ...  
BZZZ!

OF COURSE...  
I'LL BE  
GLAD TO!



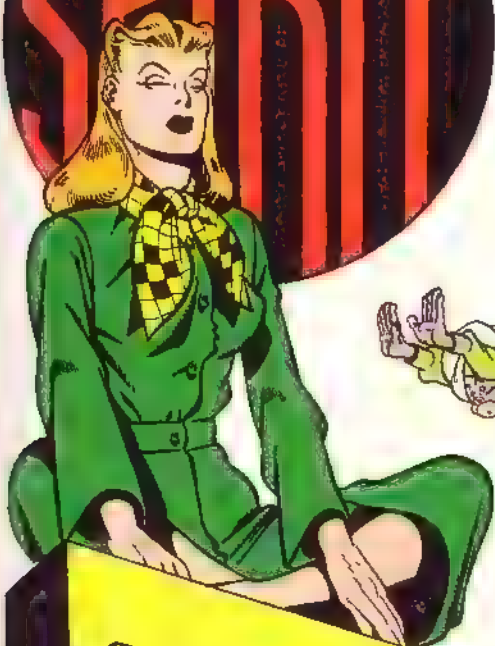






**THE**

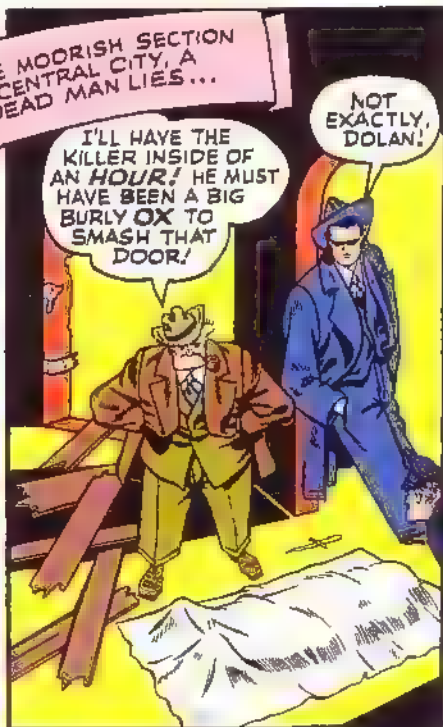
**SPRIT**



**I**N THE MOORISH SECTION  
OF CENTRAL CITY, A  
DEAD MAN LIES...

I'LL HAVE THE  
KILLER INSIDE OF  
AN HOUR! HE MUST  
HAVE BEEN A BIG  
BURLY OX TO  
SMASH THAT  
DOOR!

NOT  
EXACTLY,  
DOLAN!



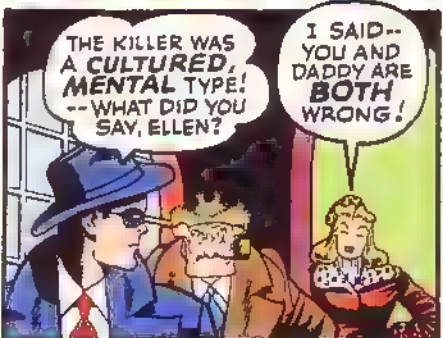
WHY DO  
YOU SAY THAT,  
SPRIT?

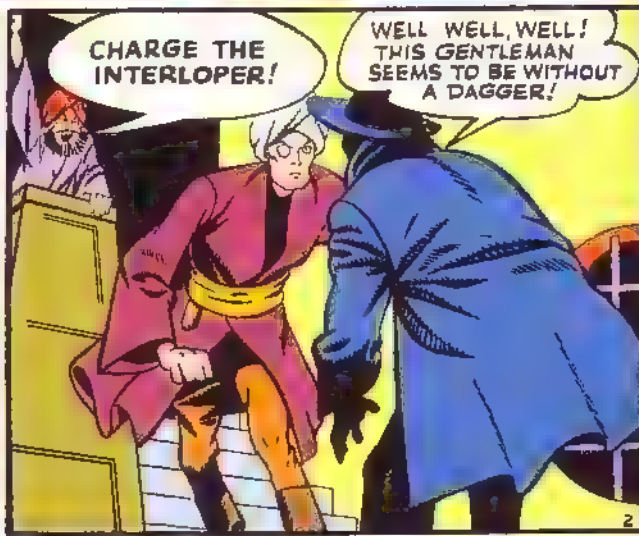
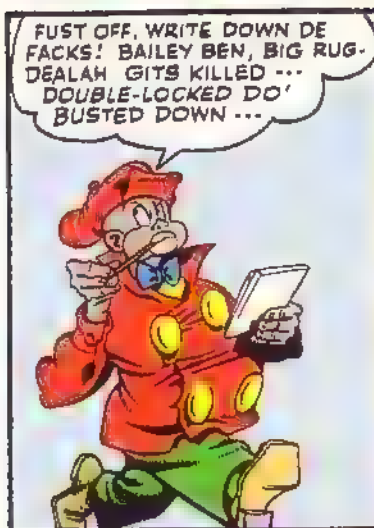
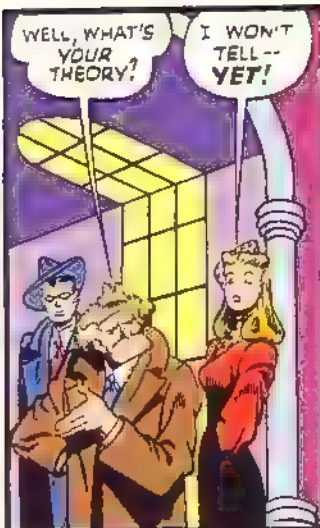
THE **DEATH  
DAGGER!** IT'S  
OF THE **HAMIDO  
SOCIETY--**MADE  
UP OF ORIENTAL  
**ARISTOCRATS!**



THE KILLER WAS  
A **CULTURED,  
MENTAL** TYPE!  
--WHAT DID YOU  
SAY, ELLEN?

I SAID--  
YOU AND  
DADDY ARE  
**BOTH**  
WRONG!



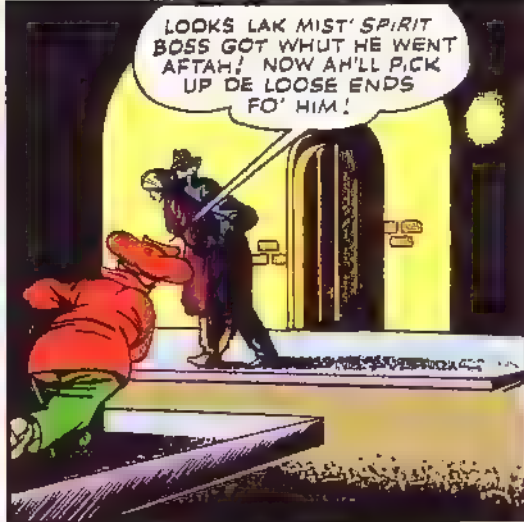




YOU OTHERS STAY  
HERE! I WANT ONLY  
THIS SPECIMEN!



LOOKS LAK MIST' SPIRIT  
BOSS GOT WHUT HE WENT  
AFTAH! NOW AH'LL PICK  
UP DE LOOSE ENDS  
FO' HIM!



DAT PO' MIST' BAILEY  
BEN -- MEBBY AH OUGHTA  
GO TO HIS FUNERAL!



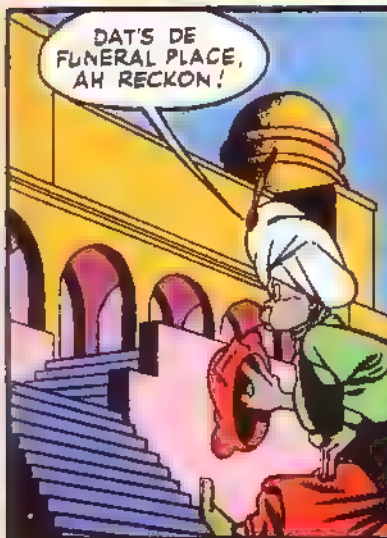
BUT FUST OFF, AH BETTAH  
GIT DE RIGHT WEARIN' APPAH'L--  
WHUT DESE ORIENTALS  
THINK IS ZOOT!



HOT DAWG! IF DE  
GALS COULD ONLY  
SEE ME NOW--  
**EBONY DE  
SHEEK!**



DAT'S DE  
FUNERAL PLACE,  
AH RECKON!



EXACTLY  
THE TYPE  
I WANT!



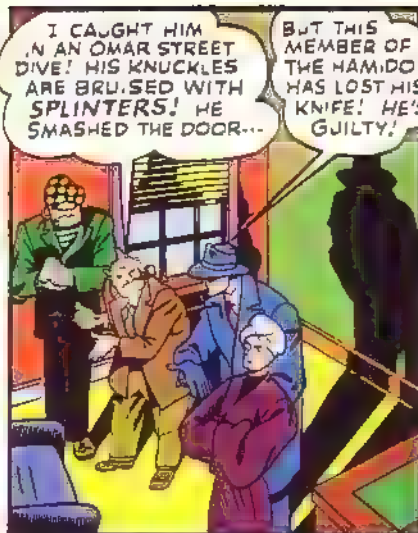
WHUT  
DE...???





IVE BROUGHT  
N THE KILLER!  
WHERE'S DOLAN?

R GHT  
HERE  
AND IVE  
GOT THE  
KILLER.



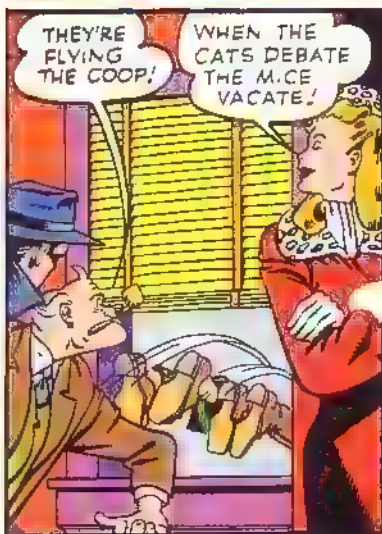
I CAUGHT HIM  
N AN OMAR STREET  
DIVE! HIS KNUCKLES  
ARE BRU.SED WITH  
SPLINTERS! HE  
SMASHED THE DOOR...

BUT THIS  
MEMBER OF  
THE HAMIDO  
HAS LOST HIS  
KNIFE! HE'S  
GUILTY!



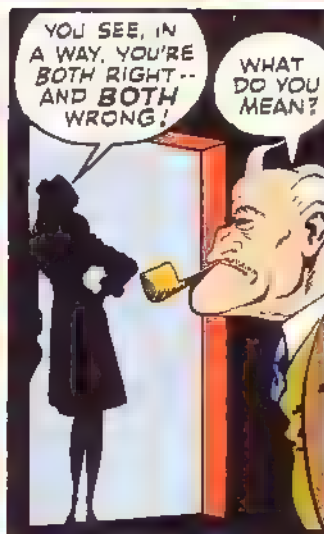
SP.RIT! YOU  
BUNGLER! I  
CAN PROVE  
THAT TH S BIG  
BRUISER IS  
GUILTY!

HOW OFTEN  
N THE PAST  
HAVE I  
OUTGUESSED  
YOU,  
DOLAN?



THEY'RE  
FLYING  
THE COOP!

WHEN THE  
CATS DEBATE  
THE M.CE  
VACATE!



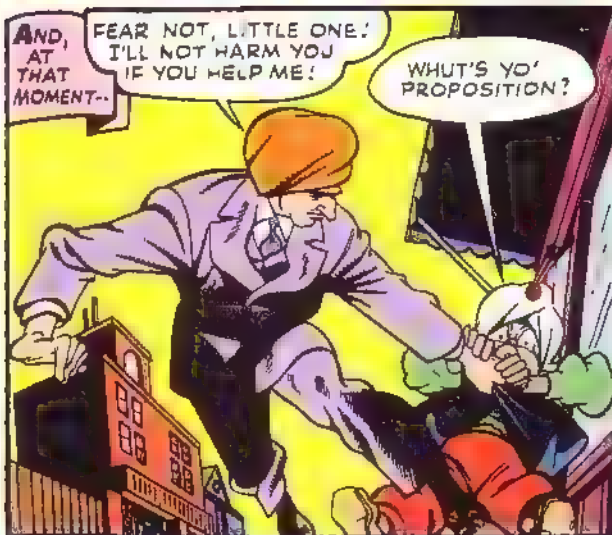
YOU SEE, IN  
A WAY, YOU'RE  
BOTH RIGHT--  
AND BOTH  
WRONG!

WHAT  
DO YOU  
MEAN?



BEFORE WE  
GO INTO THAT,  
WHAT HAPPENED  
TO EBONY?

I DONT KNOW  
-- I WONDER  
IF HE'S IN ANY  
DANGER!



AND,  
AT THAT  
MOMENT--

FEAR NOT, LITTLE ONE!  
I'LL NOT HARM YOU  
IF YOU HELP ME!

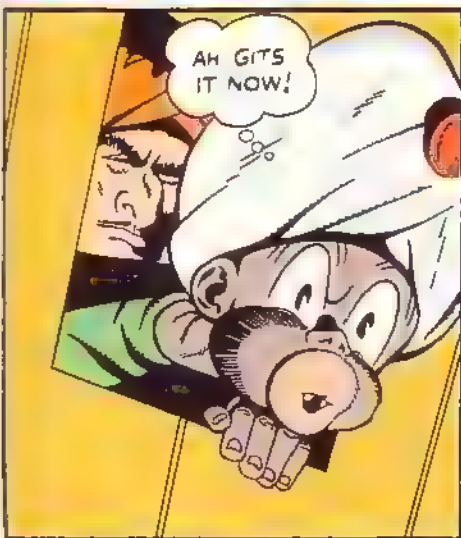
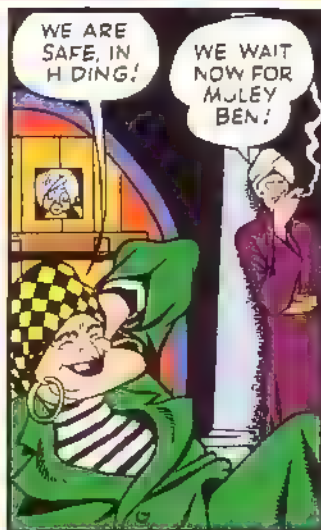
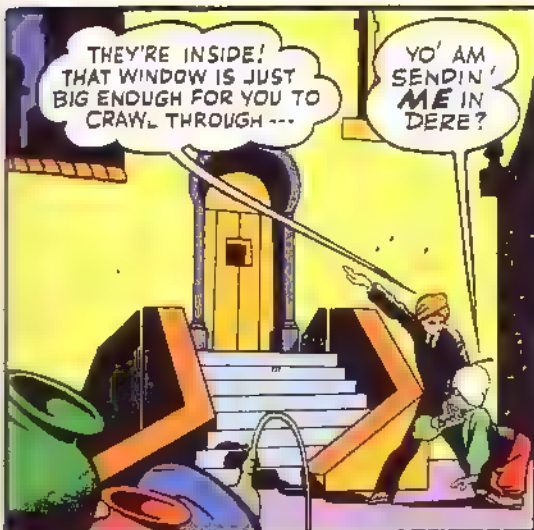
WHUT'S YO'  
PROPOSITION?

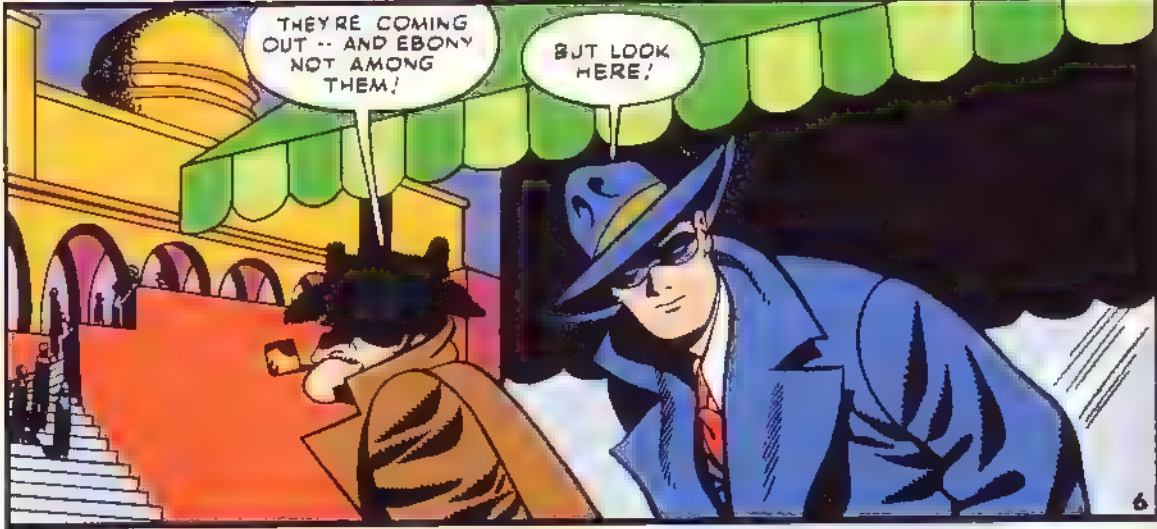
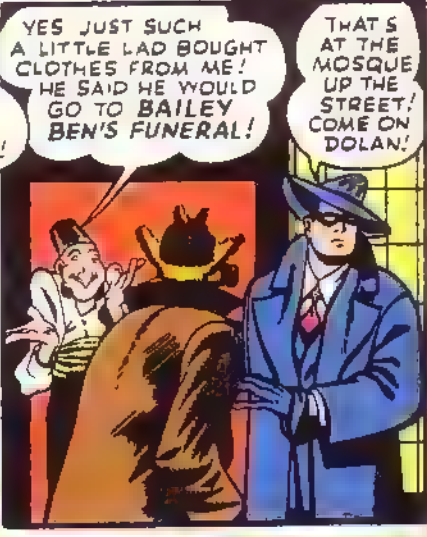
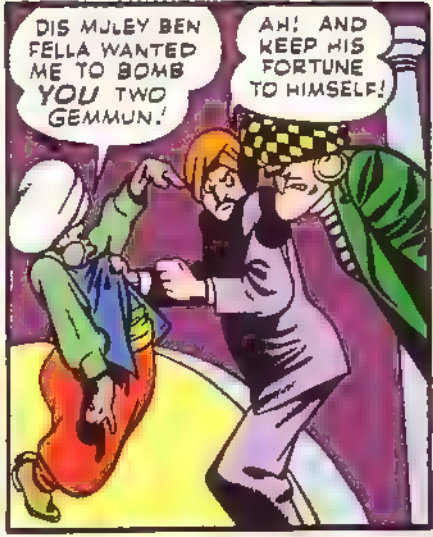
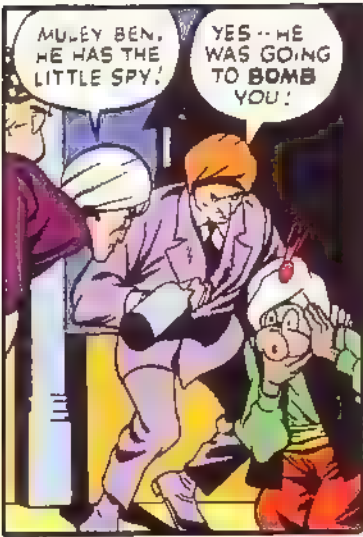


I'M BAILEY BENS  
ONLY COUSIN -- MULEY  
BEN! YOU MUST HELP  
ME AVENGE HIS  
DEATH!

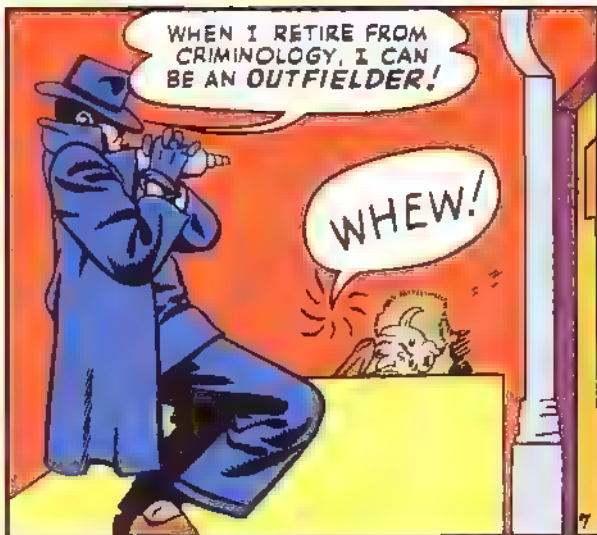
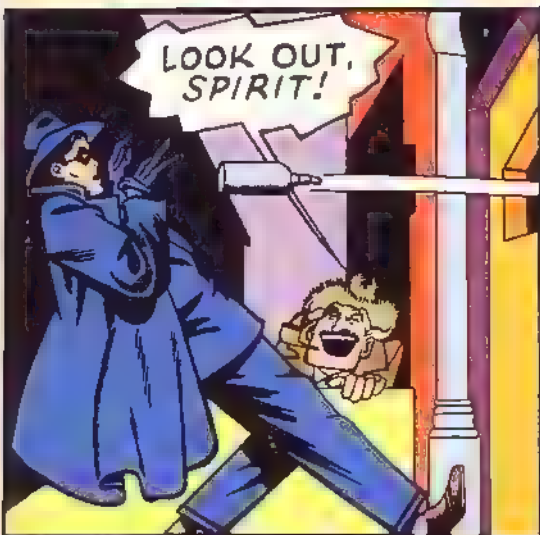
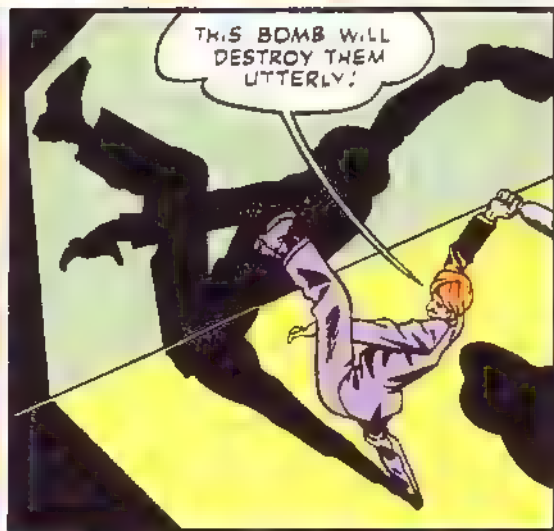
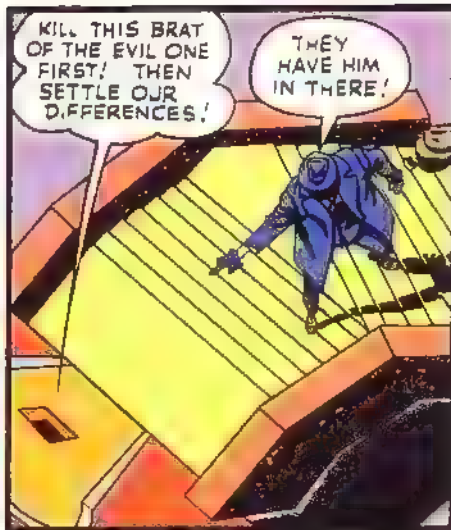
HOW'S AH  
GW.NE TO  
DO DAT?

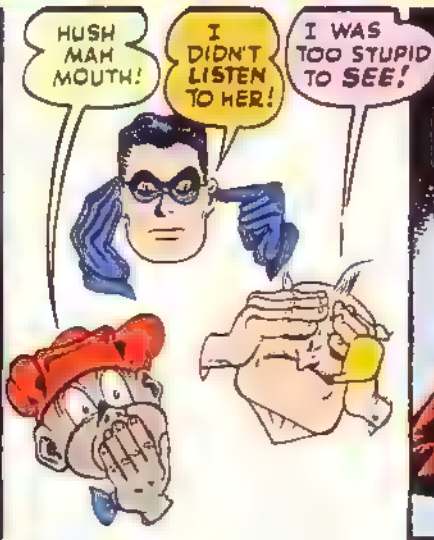
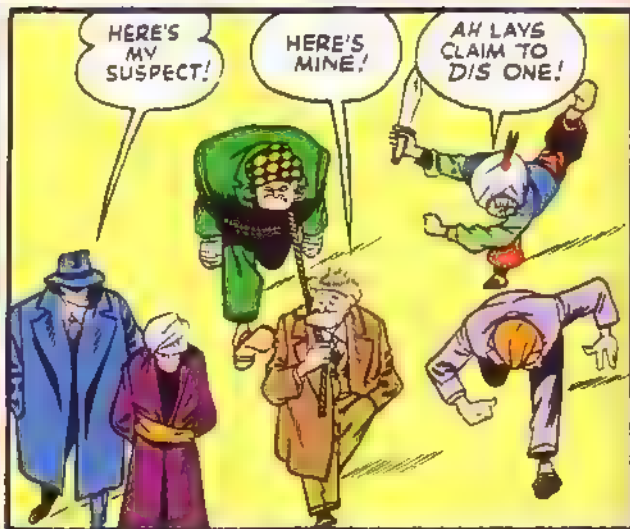
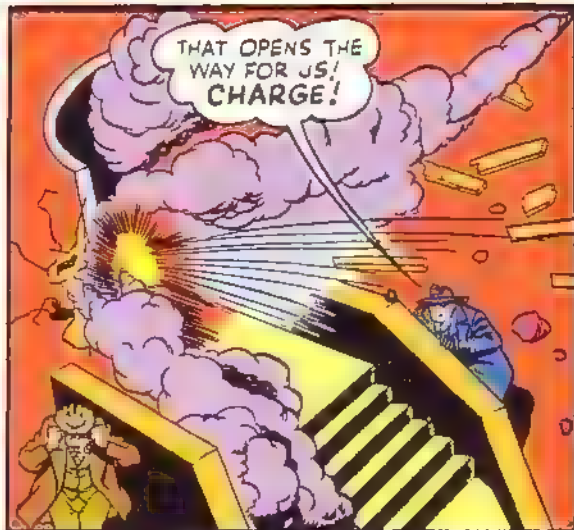
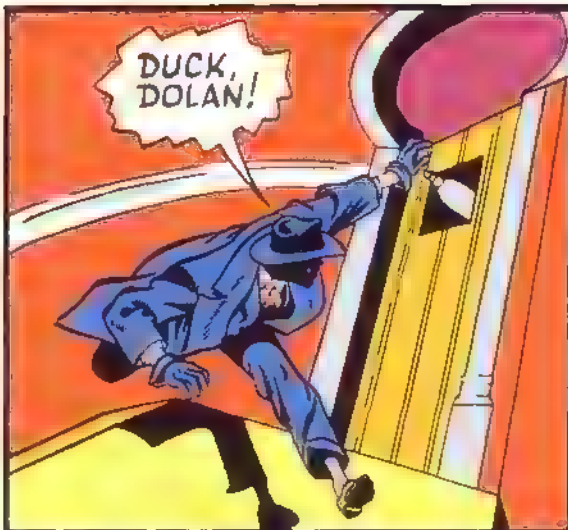






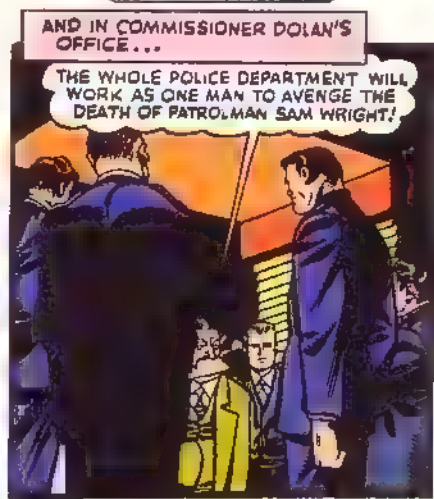
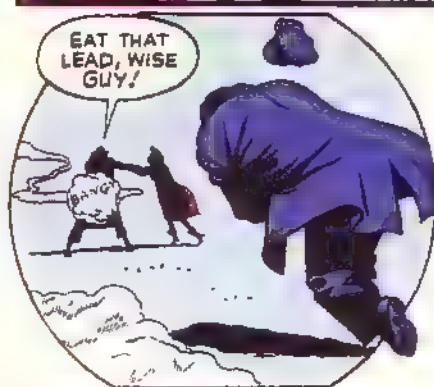
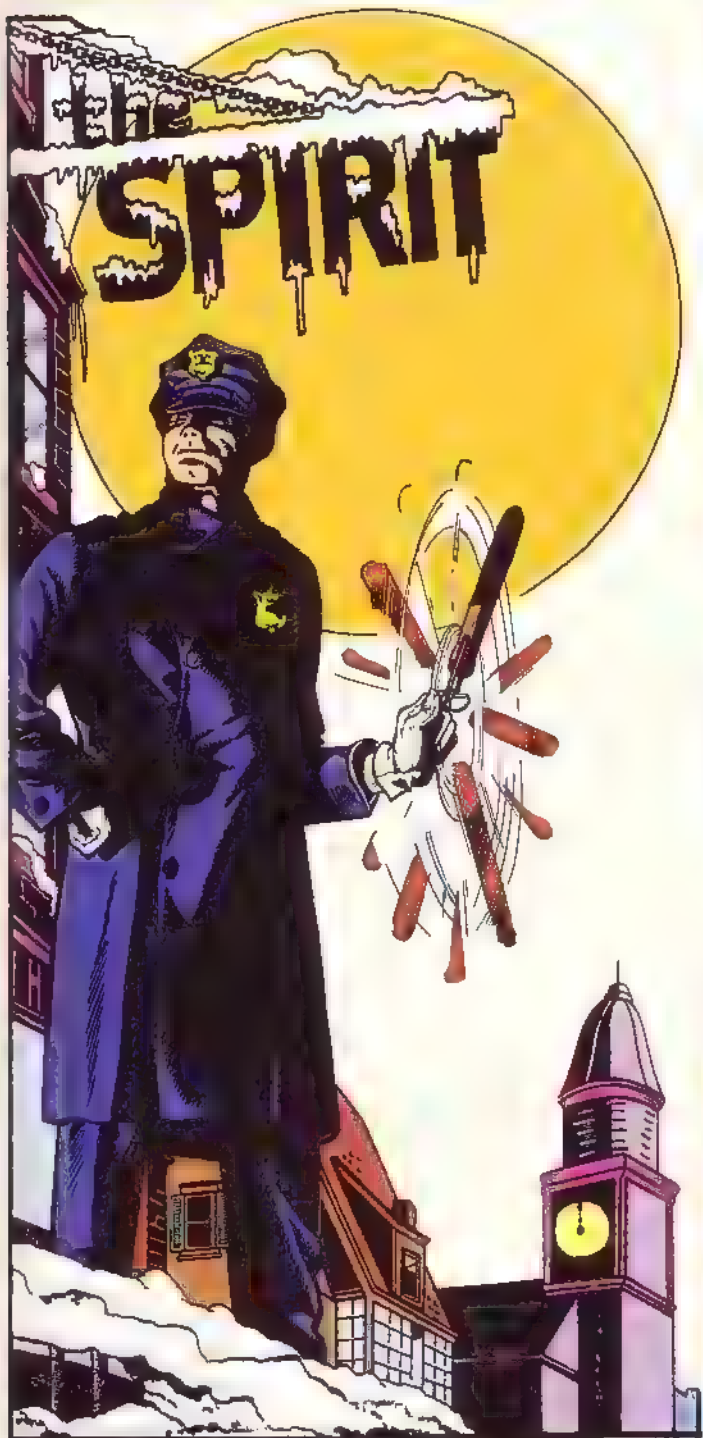


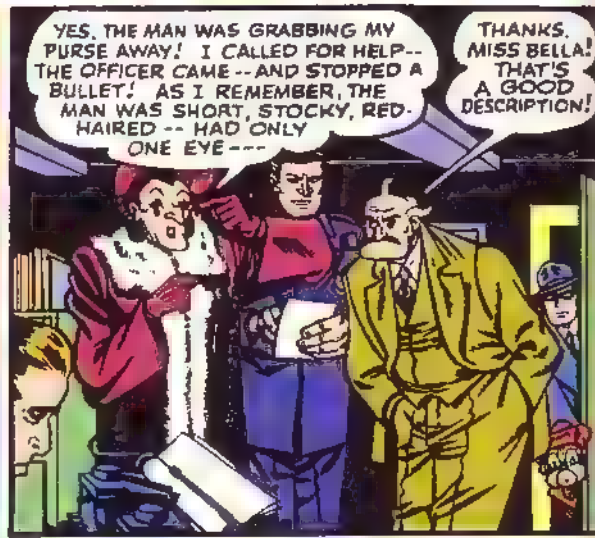
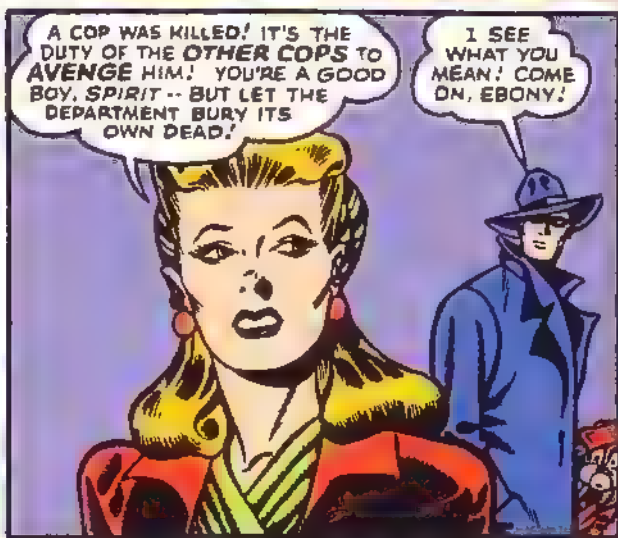
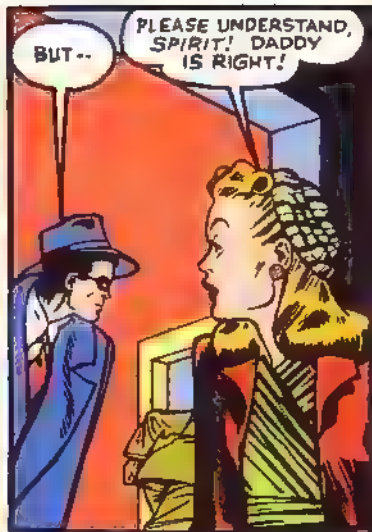




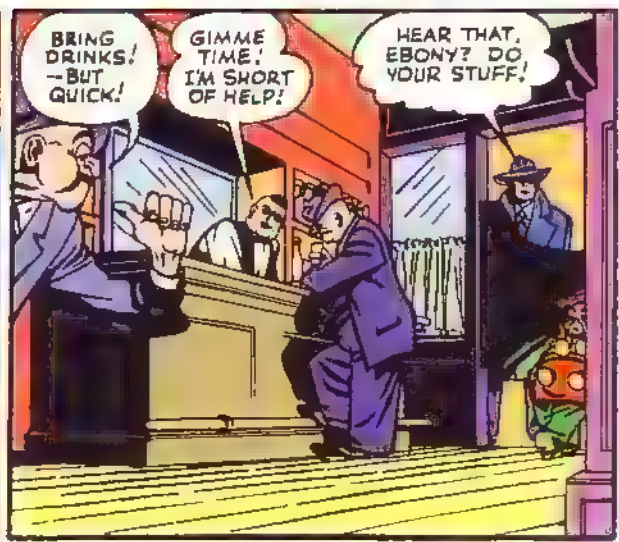
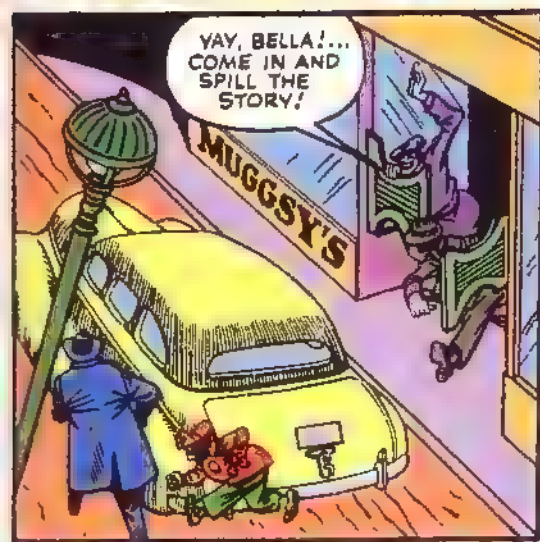
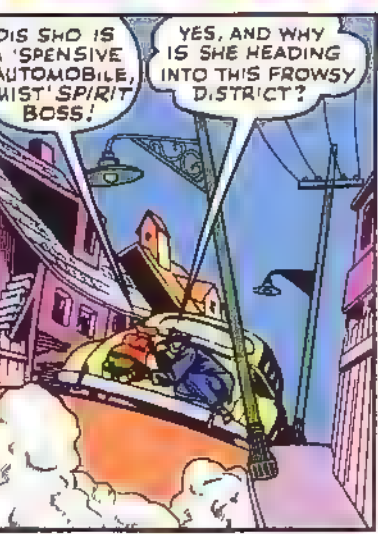
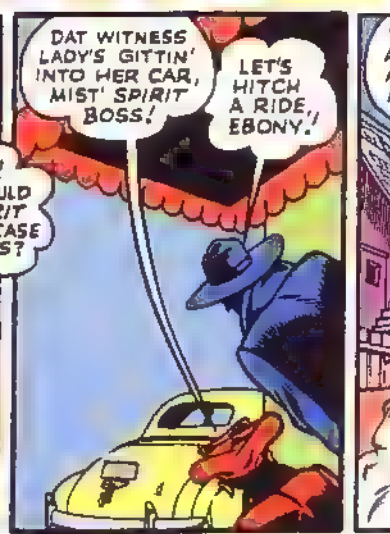
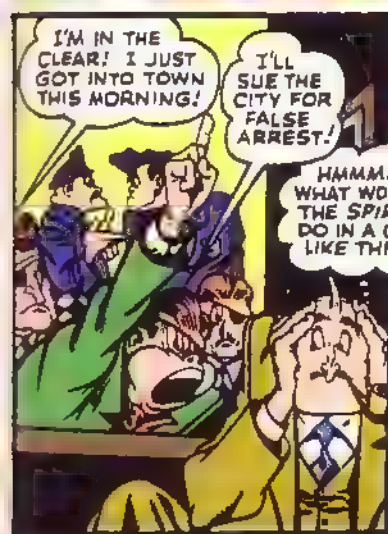


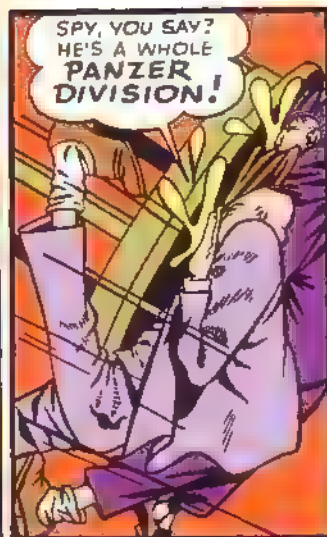
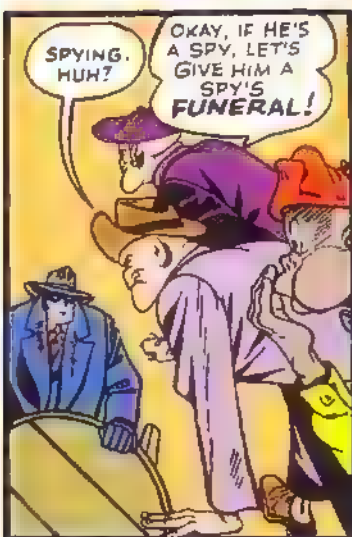
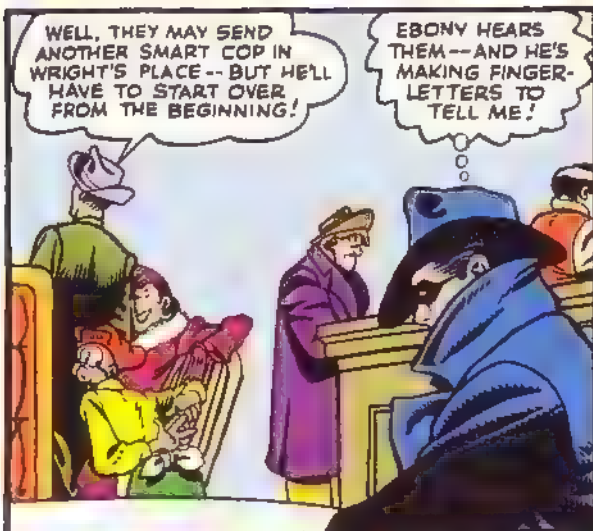
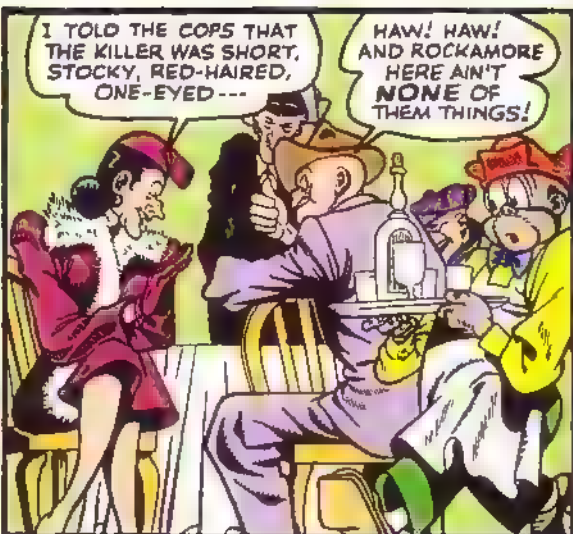
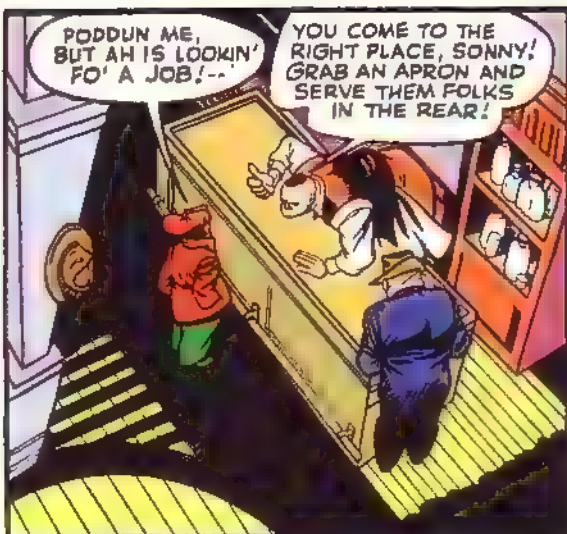
*February 27, 1944*



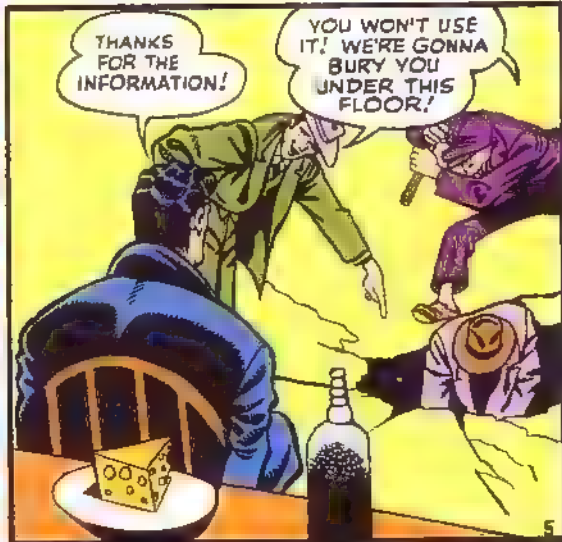
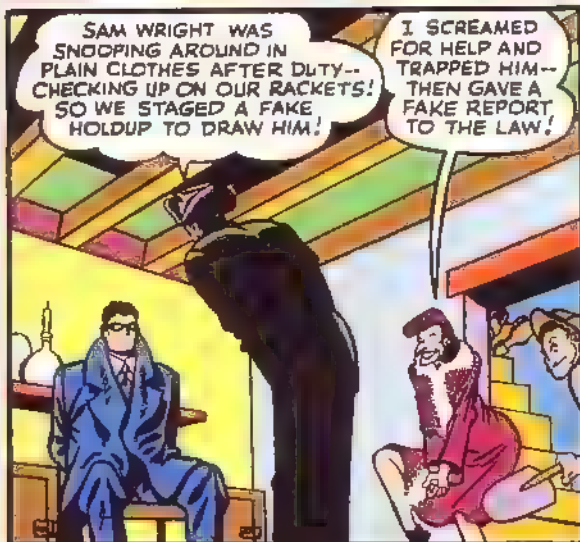
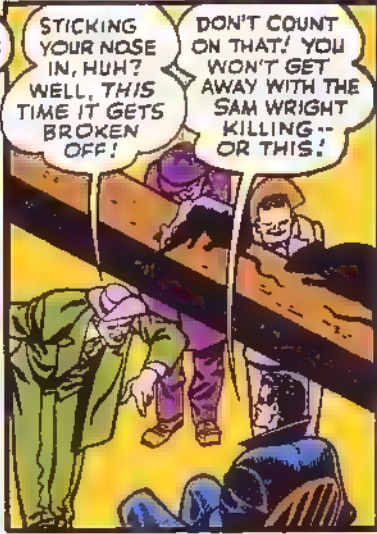
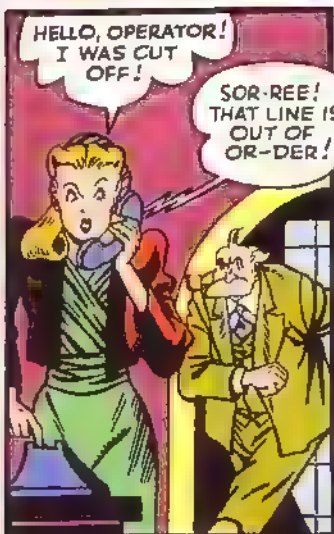
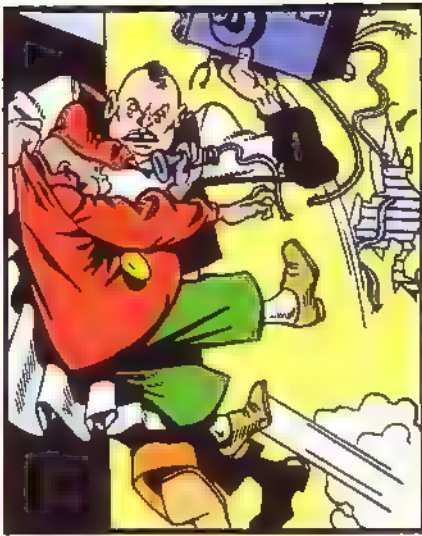
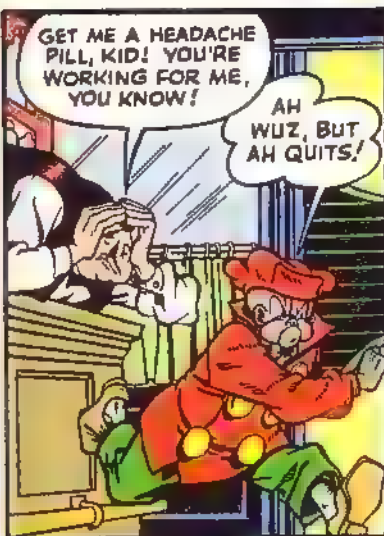


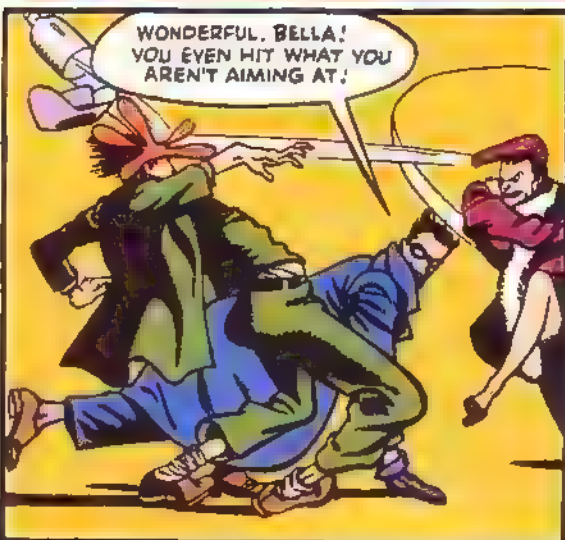
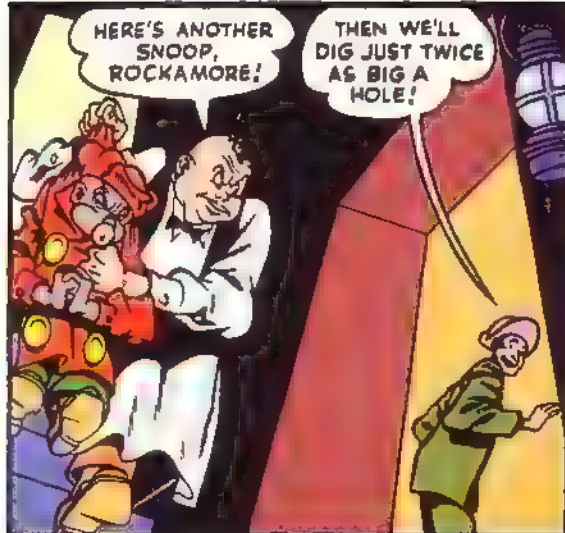




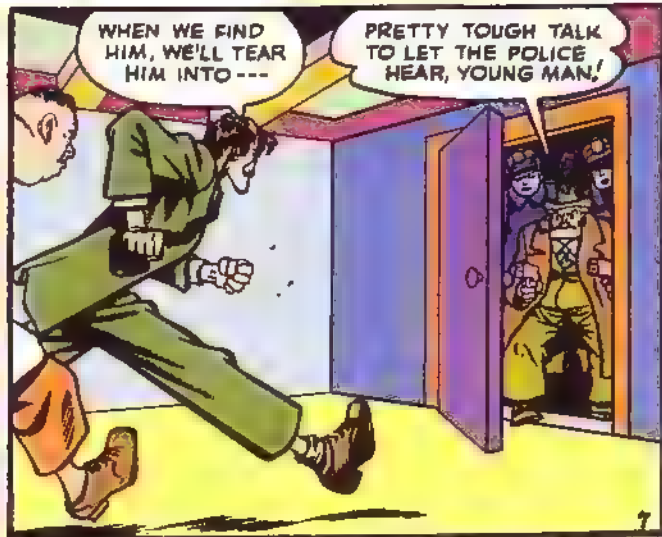
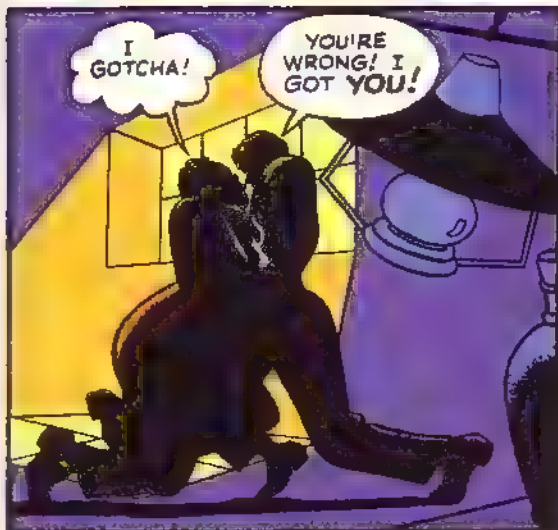


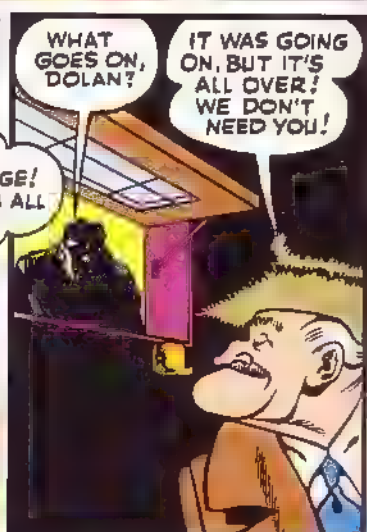
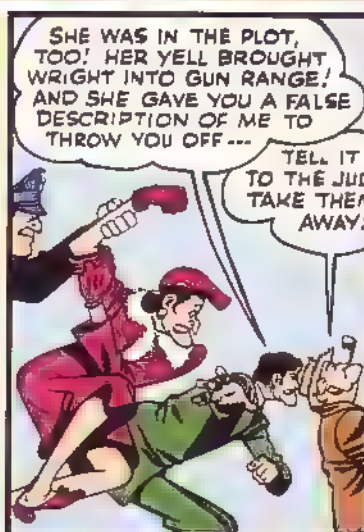
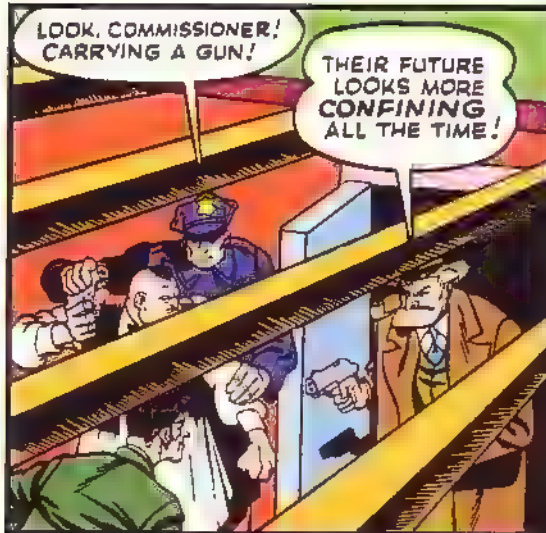








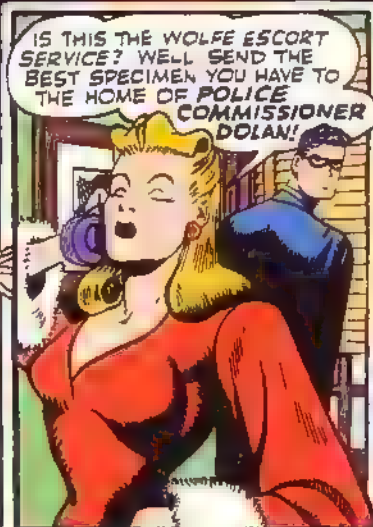
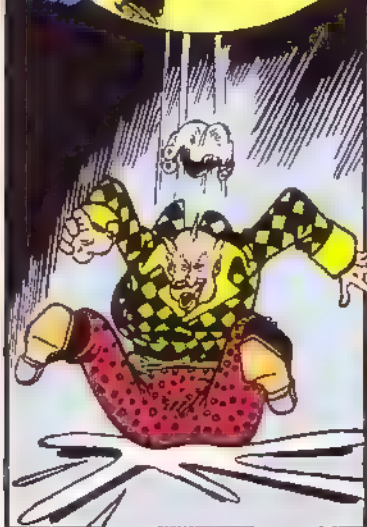


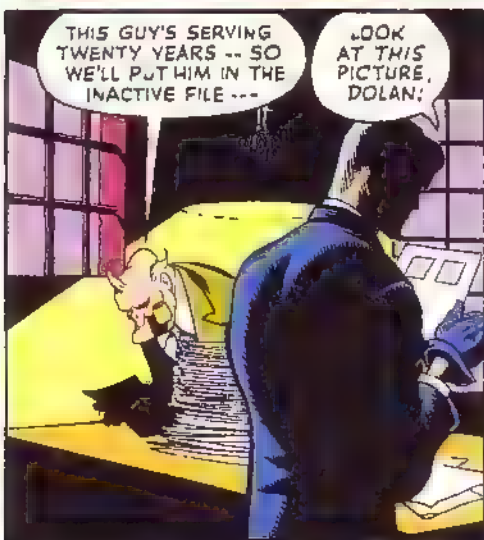
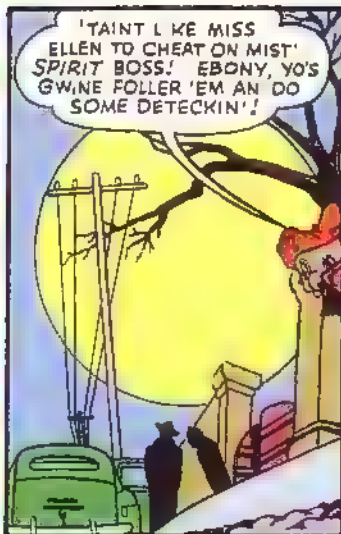




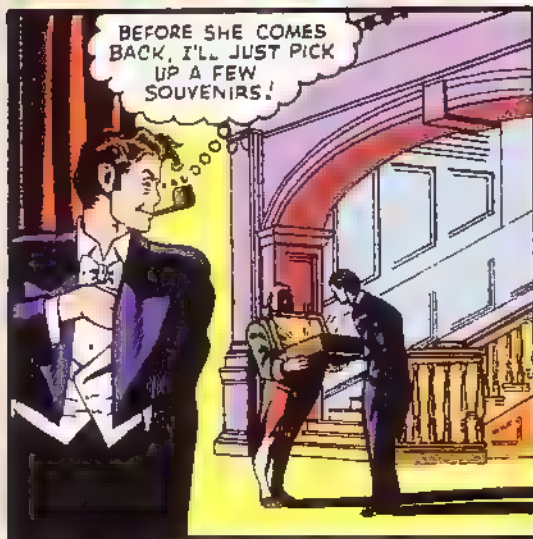
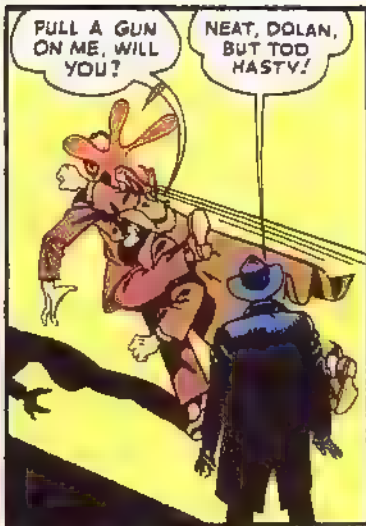
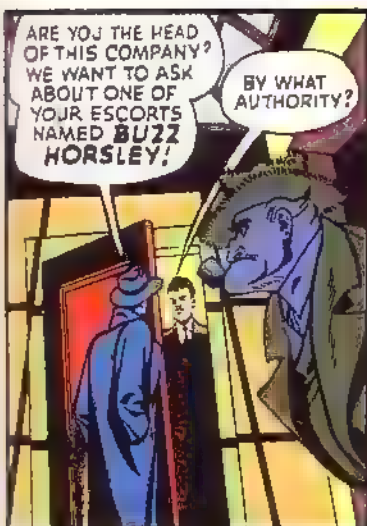
March 5, 1944

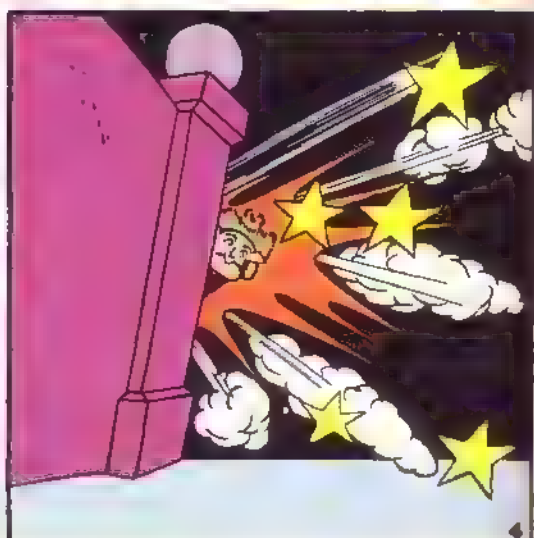
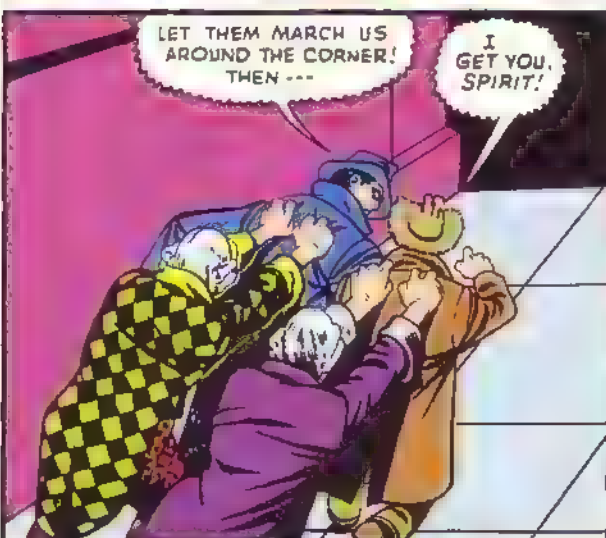
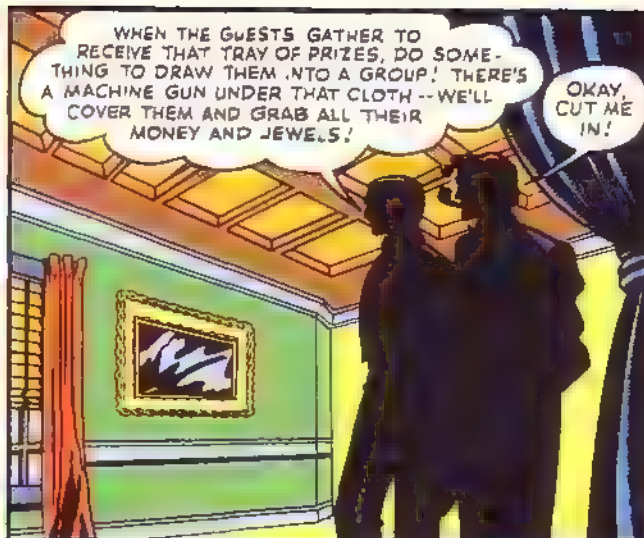
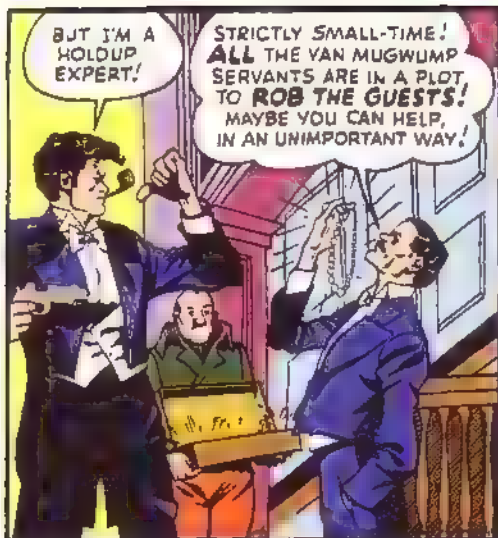
# THE SPIRIT



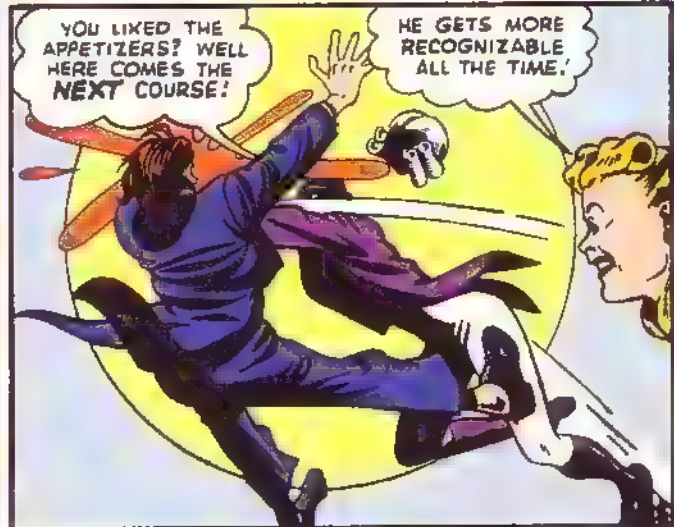
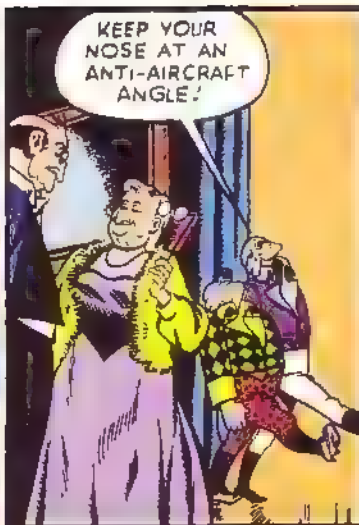
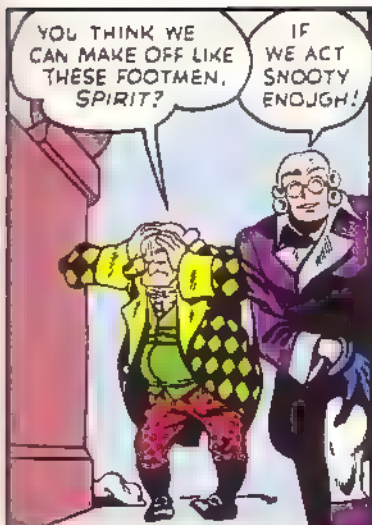


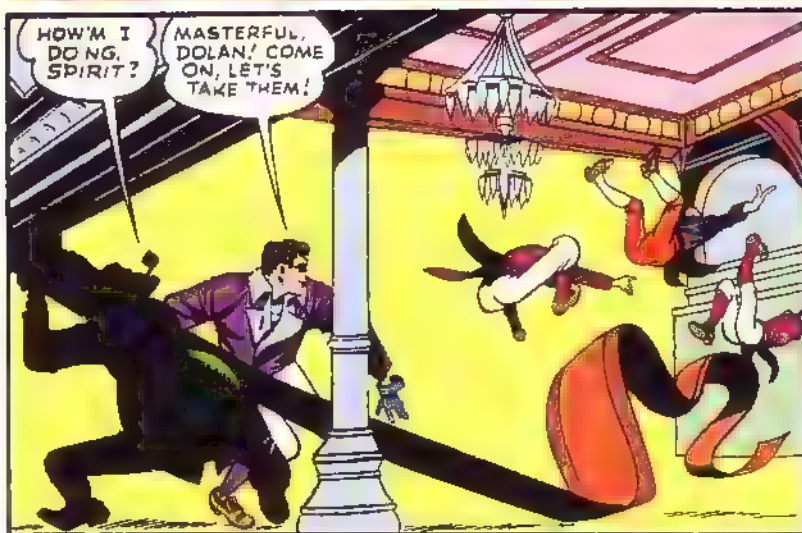
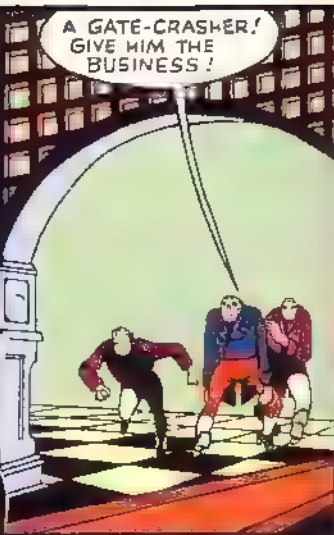




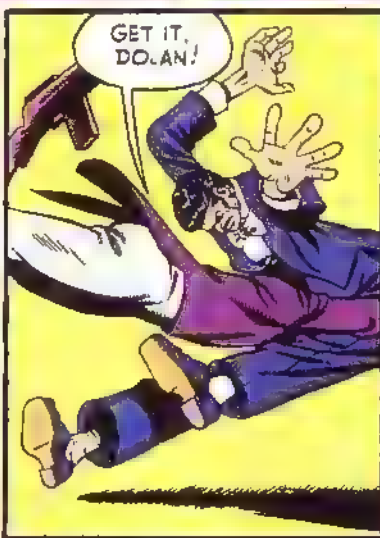
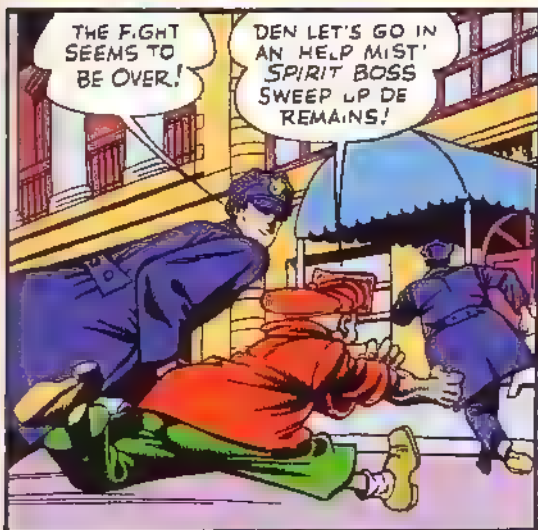


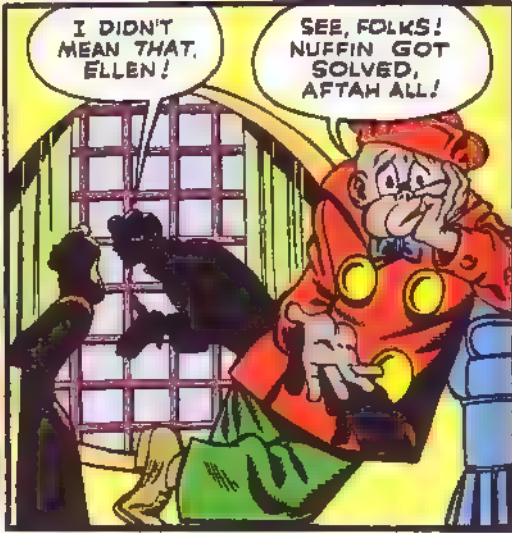
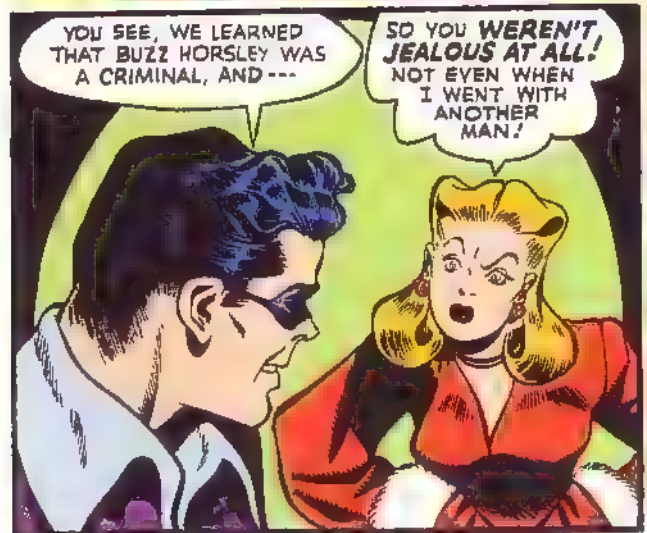
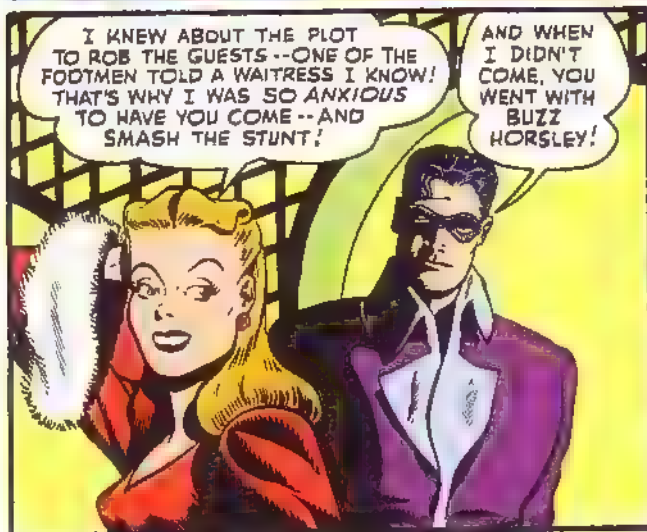
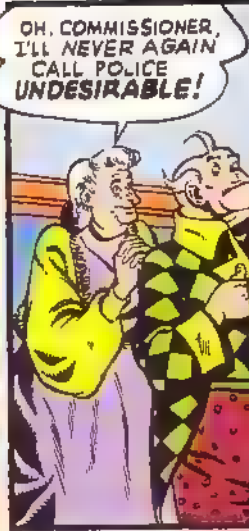




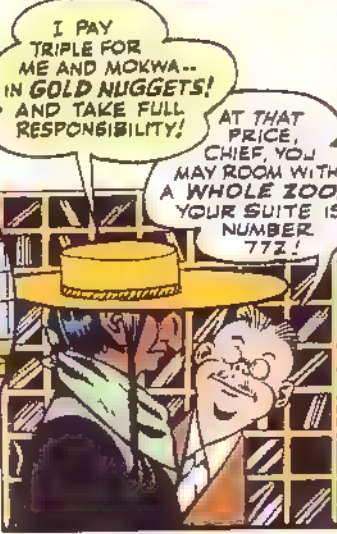












AT AN EXCLUSIVE HOTEL  
IN CENTRAL CITY...

YES, WE HAVE  
A RESERVATION  
FOR YOU, CHIEF  
DOUBLE-EAGLE,  
BUT--BUT---

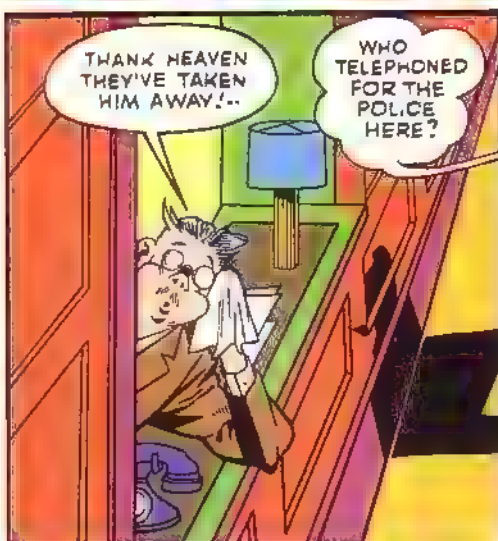
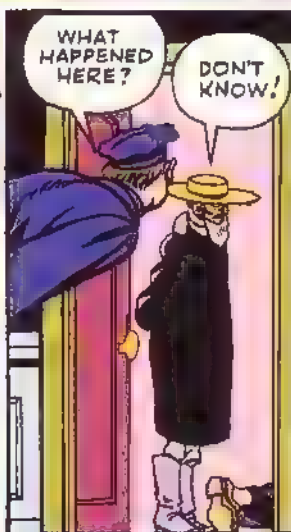
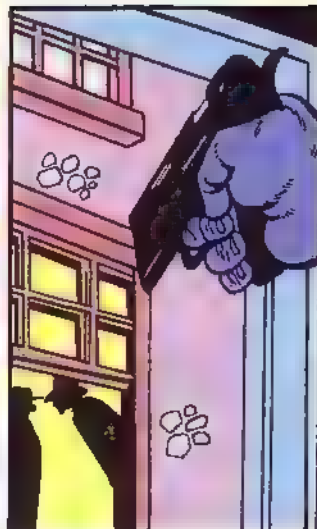
I SEE!...  
YOU DON'T  
LIKE MY ROOM-  
MATE!

I PAY  
TRIPLE FOR  
ME AND MOKWA--  
IN GOLD NUGGETS!  
AND TAKE FULL  
RESPONSIBILITY!

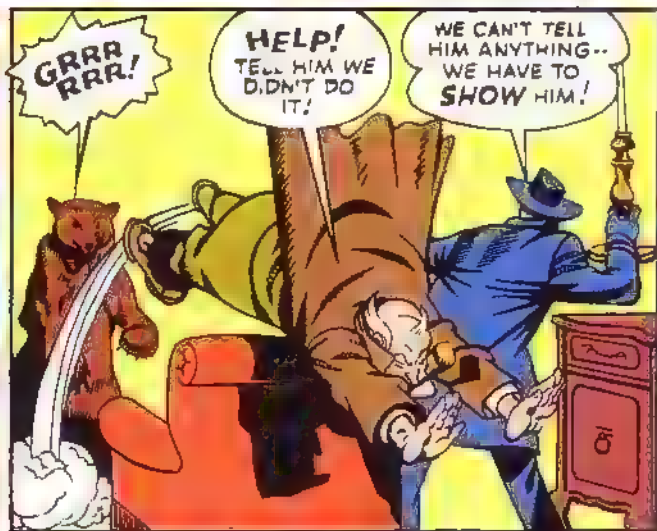
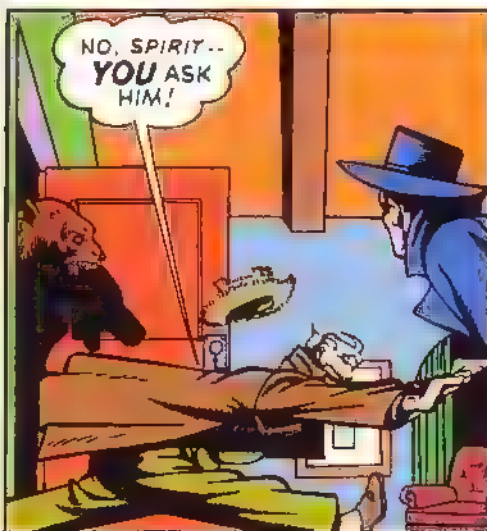
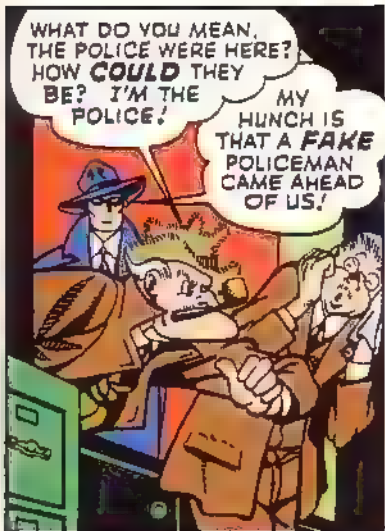
AT THAT PRICE,  
CHIEF, YOU  
MAY ROOM WITH  
A WHOLE ZOO!  
YOUR SUITE IS  
NUMBER  
772!

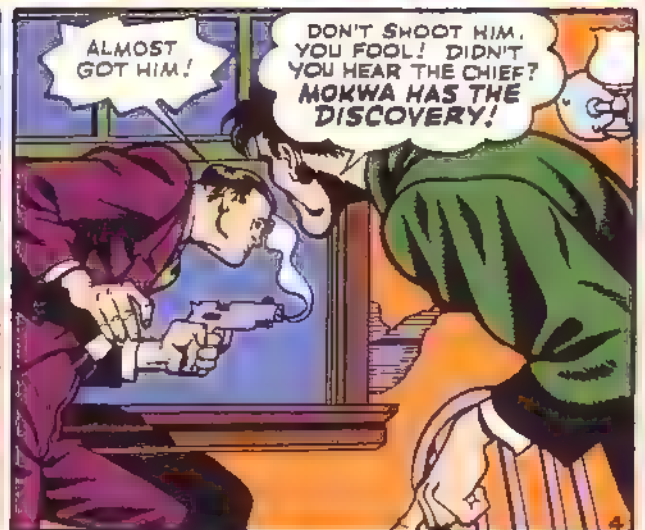
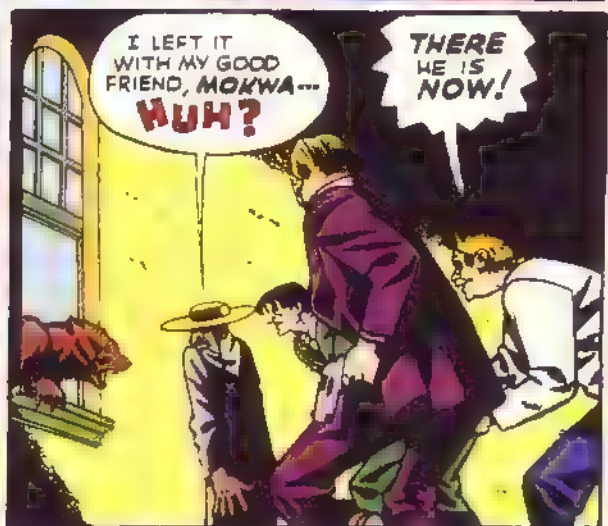
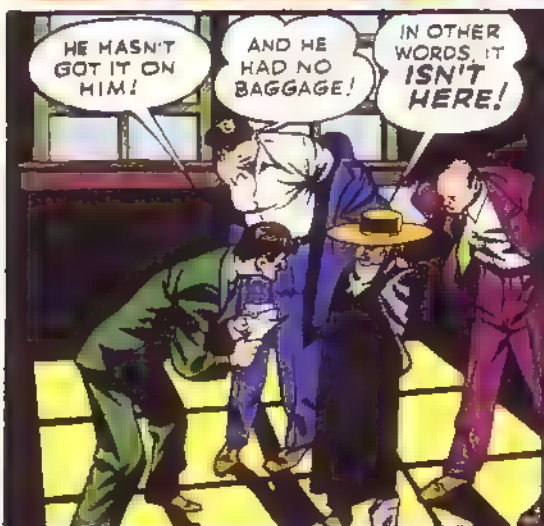
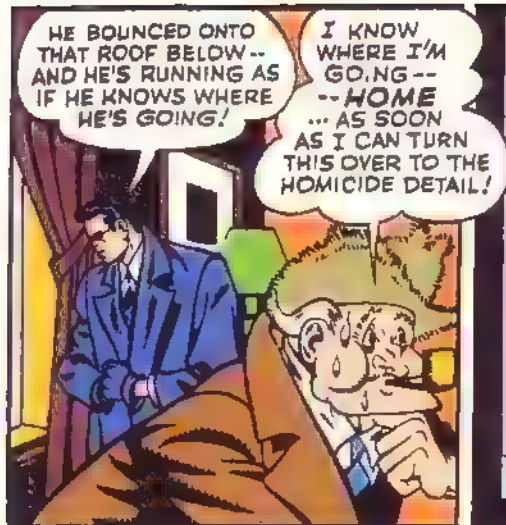
WHO ARE  
YOU?  
WHY ARE  
YOU  
HERE?

WAITING FOR YOU  
--IF YOU'RE CHIEF  
DOUBLE-EAGLE!













I'M NOT CONCERNED  
WITH THAT KILLING!--  
DEUCE-SPOT DALLIGER  
WAS A LITTLE PUNK  
WHO'S BETTER  
OFF DEAD---

ANSWER  
THE DOOR,  
EBONY!

RING



FO' DE  
LUB O'  
HOMINY!



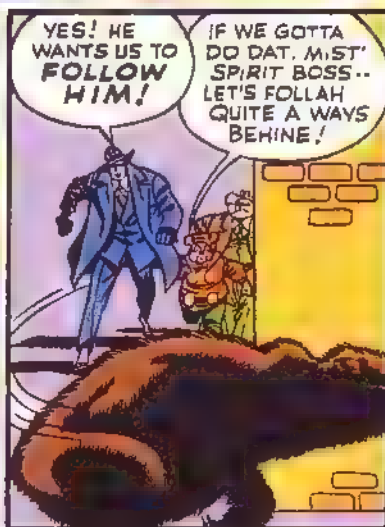
WELL, LAP ROBE --  
I SMACKED YOU  
OVER ONCE, AND  
I'LL ---

DON'T  
HIT HIM,  
SPIRIT!



HE DOESN'T  
WANT TO  
FIGHT! HE'S  
TRYING TO  
TELL YOU  
SOMETHING!

YOU'RE  
RIGHT,  
ELLEN!  
HE  
MEANS---



YES! HE  
WANTS US TO  
FOLLOW  
HIM!

IF WE GOTTA  
DO DAT, MIST'  
SPIRIT BOSS--  
LET'S FOLLAH  
QUITE A WAYS  
BEHINE!



WE KILLED DEUCE-SPOT TO  
FRAME YOU! NOW YOU'LL  
REMEMBER THE  
FORMULA OF ---

HOLD  
EVERYTHING!  
LOOK OUT IN  
THE ALLEY!



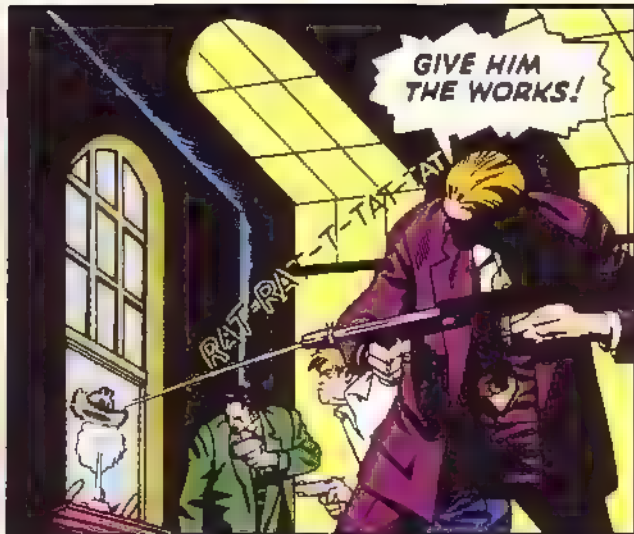
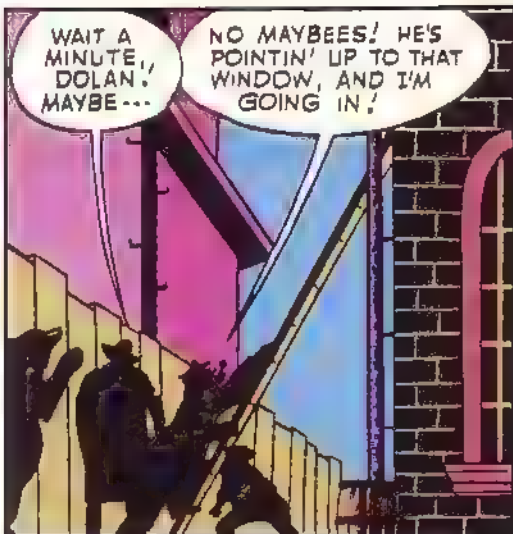
THAT BEAR DID WHAT  
THE INJUN SAID -- BRINGIN'  
DOLAN AND A WHOLE  
POSSE!

GET  
READY  
FOR 'EM!

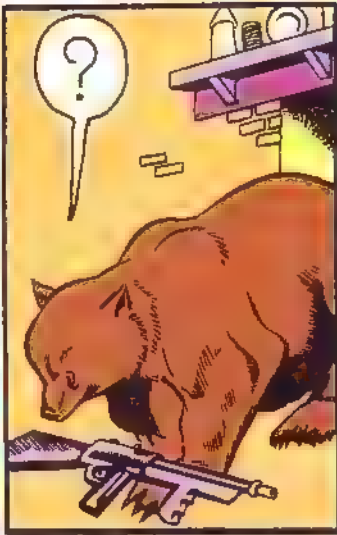
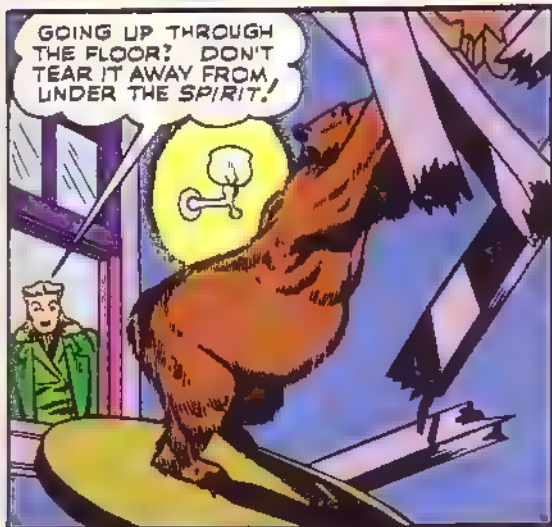
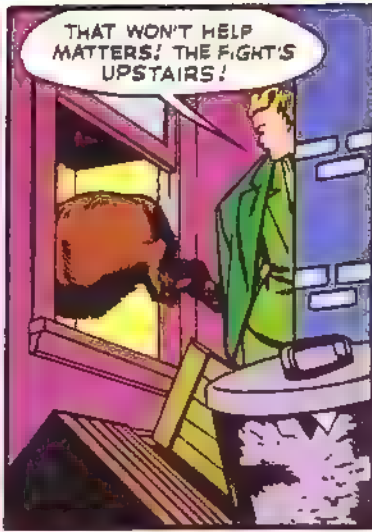


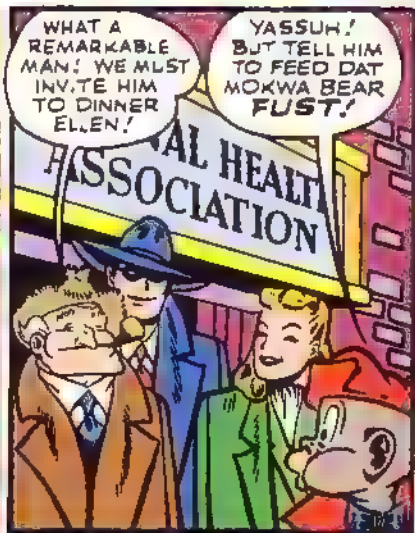
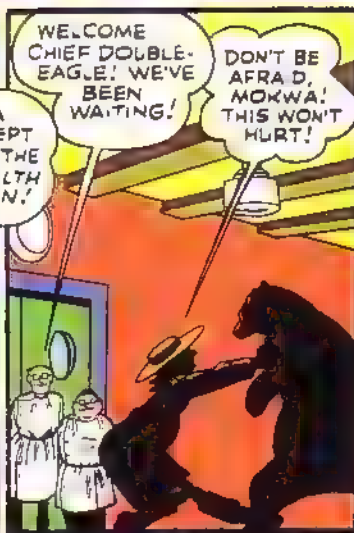
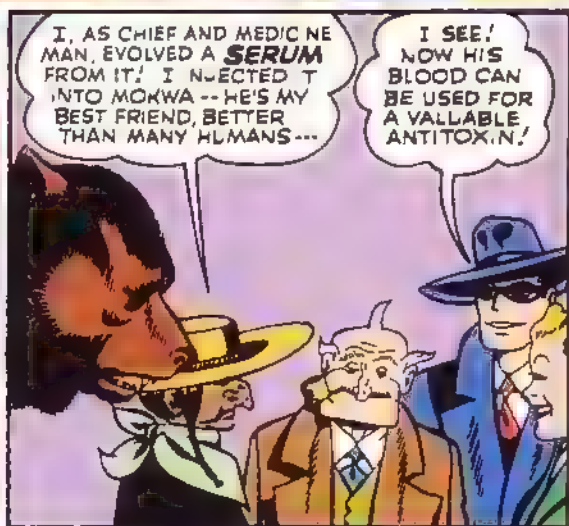
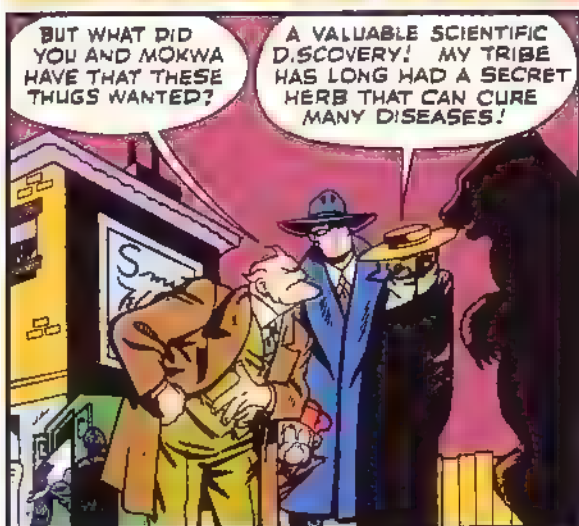
WHEN THEY  
CRACK IN---  
BLAST  
'EM!

YEAH, ALL BUT  
THE BEAR!  
WE WANT HIM  
ALIVE!











COMIC  
BOOK  
SECTION

SKELTER & CRABB

March 19, 1944

ACTION  
Mystery  
ADVENTURE

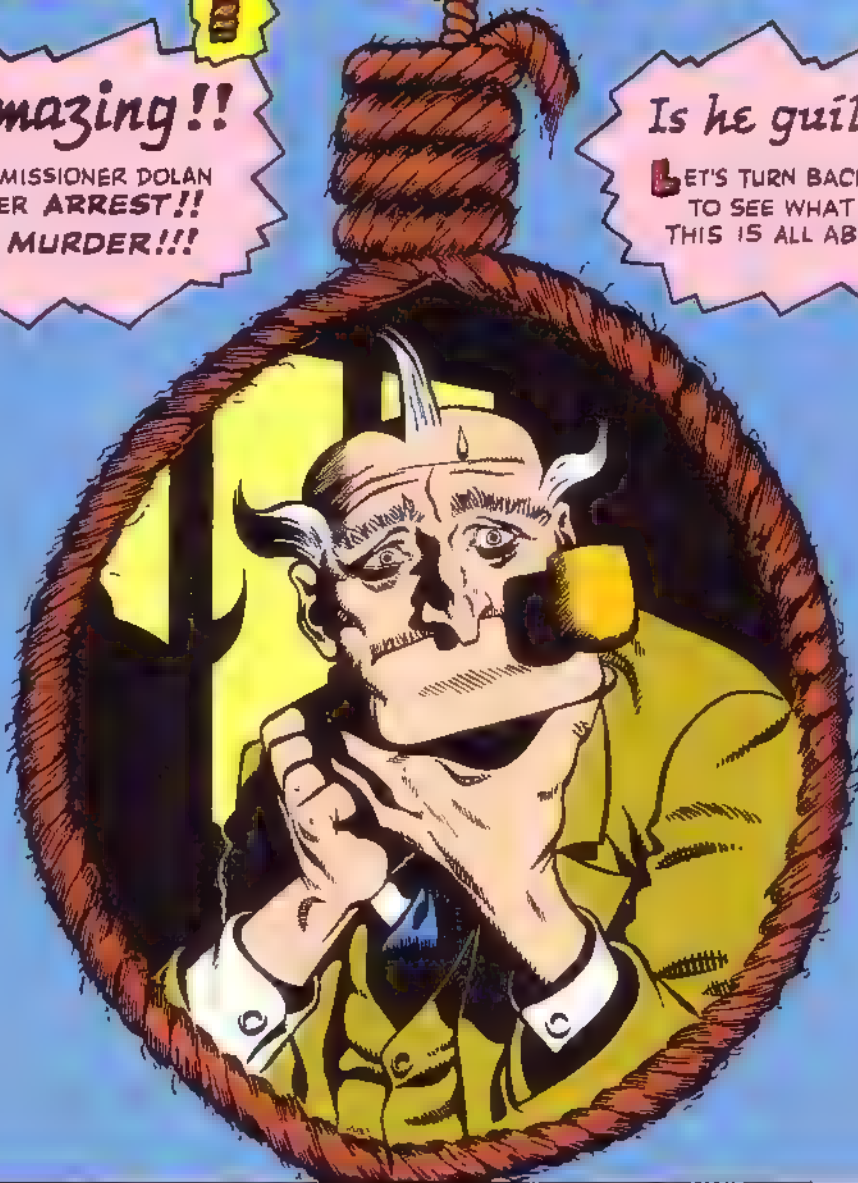
# The Spinnist

**Amazing!!**

COMMISSIONER DOLAN  
UNDER ARREST!!  
FOR MURDER!!!

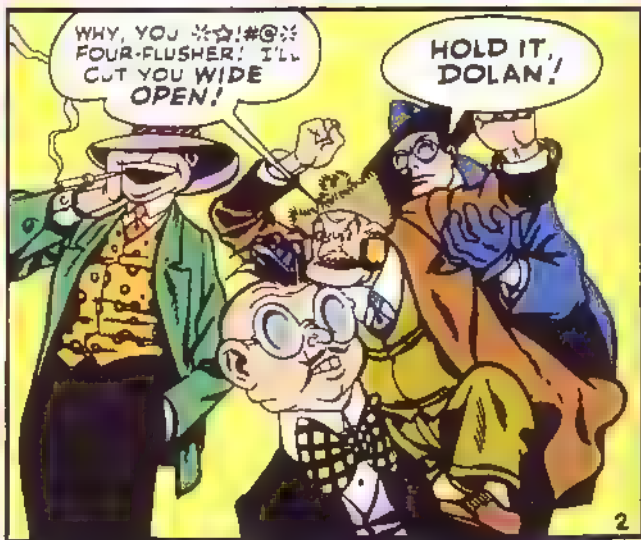
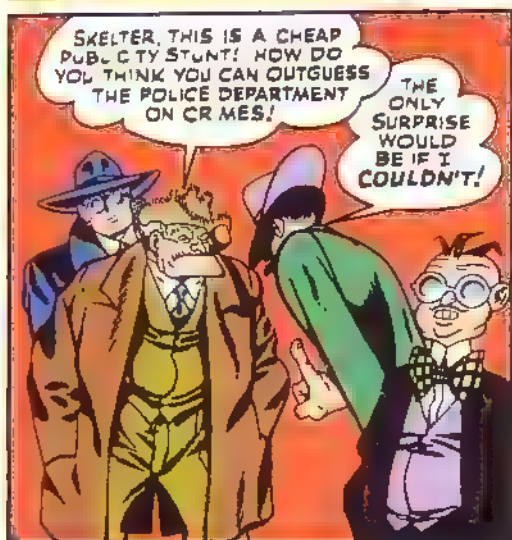
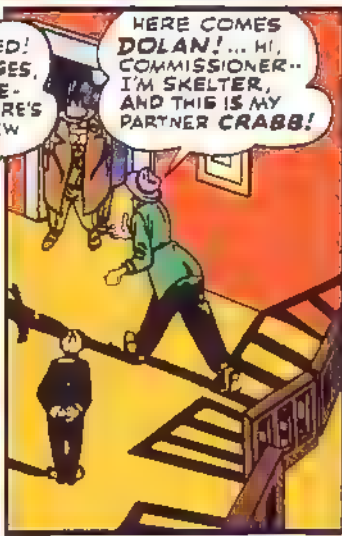
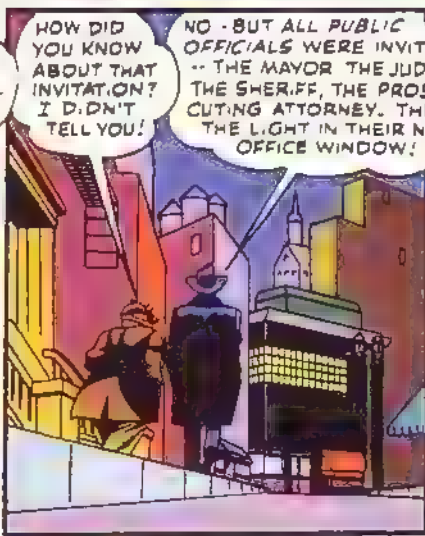
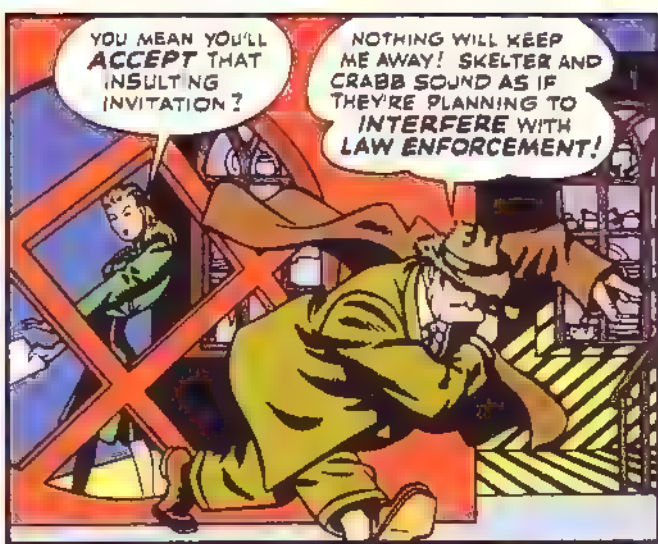
**Is he guilty?**

LET'S TURN BACKWARD  
TO SEE WHAT  
THIS IS ALL ABOUT---

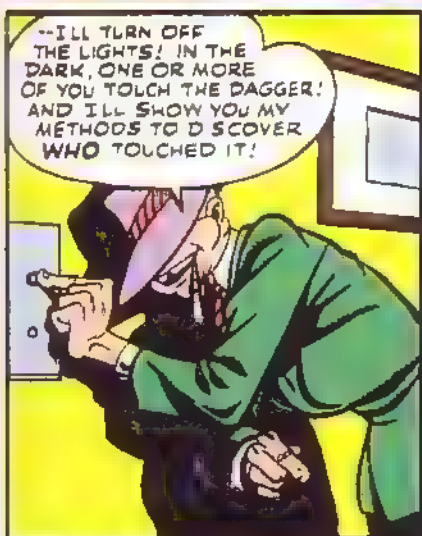
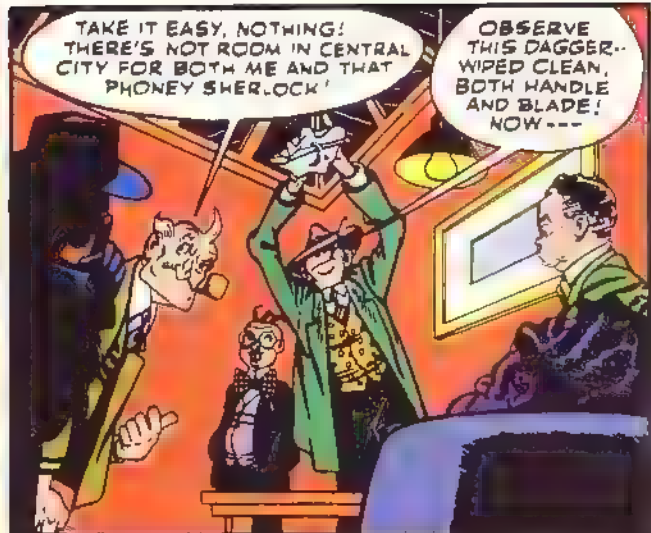
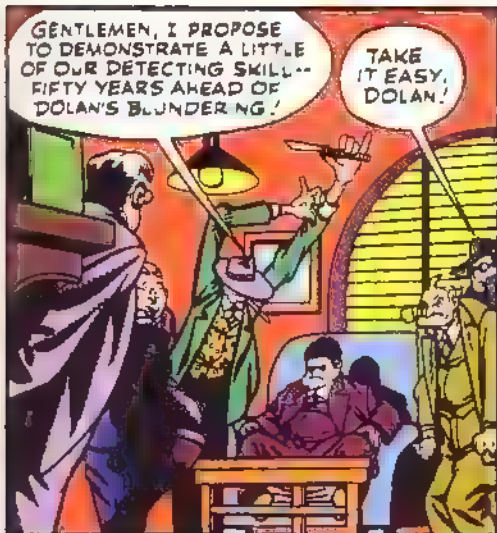


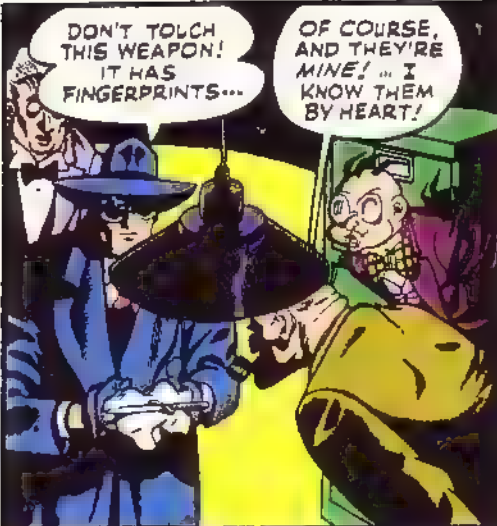
*Mr. Dolan:*  
 You are invited to the opening  
 of the new offices of  
 SKELTER and CRABB Private Detectives  
 Thursday at 8 p.m.  
 Come and have fun --and learn how  
 SKELTER and CRABB will make fools  
 of BACK NUMBER PUBLIC OFFICIALS!

*P.S. - Tie on your hat,  
 you right out of the  
 crime-solving  
 business, and the  
 pace will be  
 terrific!*  
*S. and C.*



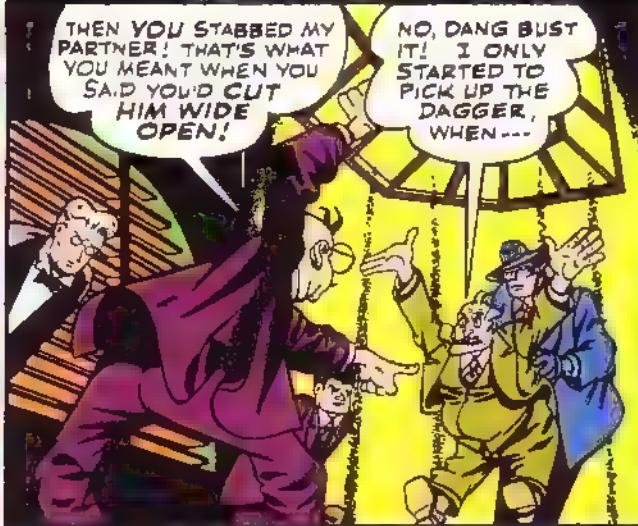







DON'T TOUCH  
THIS WEAPON!  
IT HAS  
FINGERPRINTS...

OF COURSE,  
AND THEY'RE  
MINE! ... I  
KNOW THEM  
BY HEART!



THEN YOU STABBED MY  
PARTNER! THAT'S WHAT  
YOU MEANT WHEN YOU  
SAID YOU'D CUT  
HIM WIDE  
OPEN!

NO, DANG BUST  
IT! I ONLY  
STARTED TO  
PICK UP THE  
DAGGER,  
WHEN---



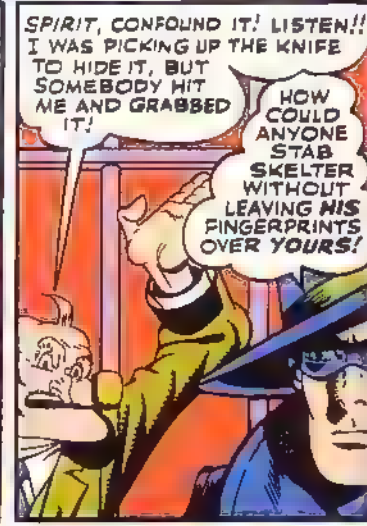
DON'T TALK  
DOLAN! YOU'RE  
IN A JAM! ---  
WAIT TILL  
YOU SEE A  
LAWYER!

I APPEAL  
TO THE  
PROSECUTING  
ATTORNEY!




OWWWW!!!

DON'T BLOW A  
FUSE, DOLAN!  
DON'T FORGET  
THAT I'M FREE  
TO FIND THE  
**REAL**  
KILLER!




SPIRIT, CONFOUND IT! LISTEN!!  
I WAS PICKING UP THE KNIFE  
TO HIDE IT, BUT  
SOMEBODY HIT  
ME AND GRABBED  
IT!

HOW  
COULD  
ANYONE  
STAB  
SKELTER  
WITHOUT  
LEAVING HIS  
FINGERPRINTS  
OVER YOURS!




LATER... AT  
THE DOLAN  
HOME ...

WHAT DO  
YOU MEAN, HELP  
YOU? YOU ARRESTED  
MY FATHER! -- I'LL  
NEVER SPEAK TO  
YOU AGAIN!



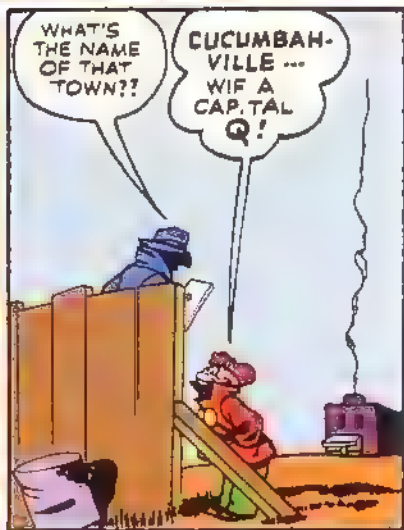
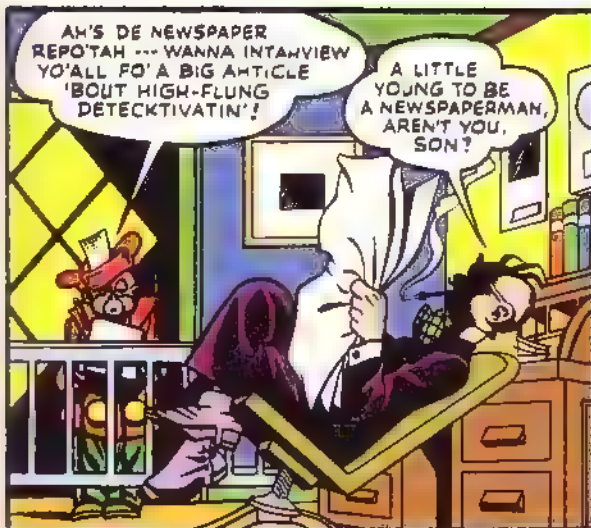
YO'  
STILL GOT  
**ME**,  
MIST' SPIRIT  
BOSS!



GO TO THE  
OFFICE OF SKELTER  
AND CRABB AND  
TELL THEM --

WHISPAH  
LOUDAH,  
MIST' SPIRIT  
BOSS!







I GOT IT!

LOOK FOR THE NAME OF SPOMMINGER!



HERE IT IS --- J.J. SPOMMINGER-- STOCKS AND BONDS-- 'CUCUMBERVILLE 999'!

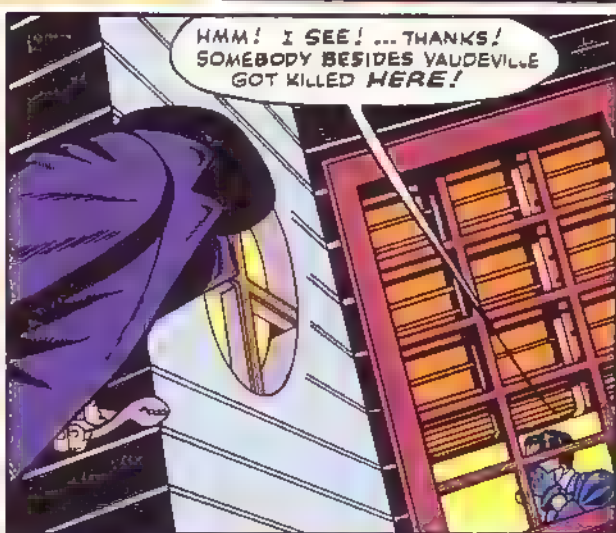
HELLO! ...LONG DISTANCE!



MR SPOMMINGER? THIS IS CENTRAL CITY POLICE, CHECKING ON A MAN NAMED CRABB, WHO SAYS HE WORKED FOR YOU ...



THOSE WERE THE OLD DAYS WHEN I WAS A THEATRICAL AGENT, BEFORE VAUDEVILLE DIED! I THINK CRABB HELPED KILL IT -- HA-HA-HA! --HE WAS AN EXPERT.....



HMM! I SEE! ... THANKS! SOMEBODY BESIDES VAUDEVILLE GOT KILLED HERE!



YOU SAY THE PHONE WENT DEAD? WHAT ---

THINGS ARE ABOUT TO START POPPING! EBONY, DID YOU MAKE THAT PURCHASE AT THE NOVELTY SHOP?

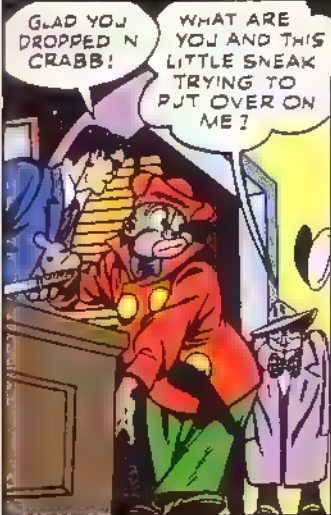
IT'S IN DE NEX ROOM! I'LL GIT IT!



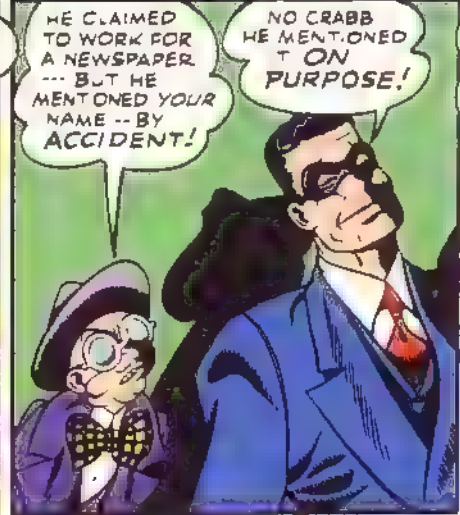
PUT IT ON THE TABLE, EBONY!

I DEMAND AN EXPLANATION, SPIRIT!





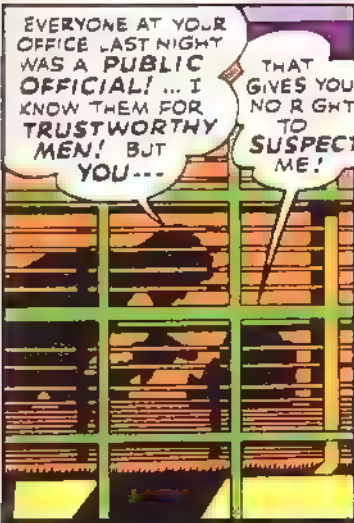
GLAD YOU DROPPED N CRABB!



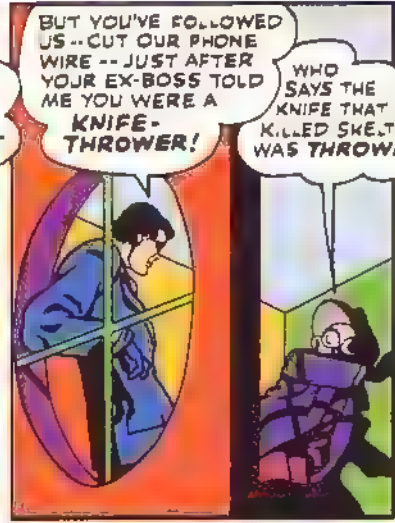
HE CLAIMED TO WORK FOR A NEWSPAPER --- BUT HE MENTIONED YOUR NAME -- BY ACCIDENT!



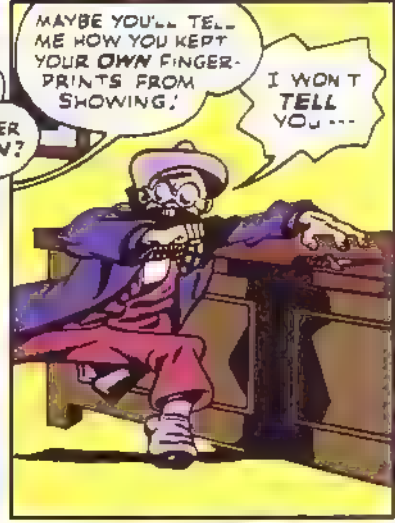
NO CRABB HE MENTIONED T ON PURPOSE!



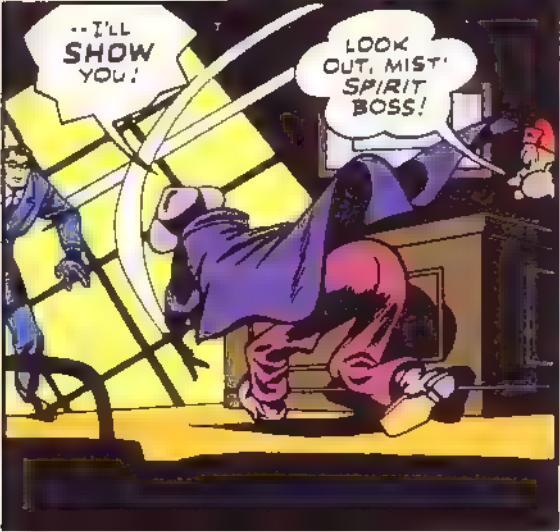
EVERYONE AT YOUR OFFICE LAST NIGHT WAS A PUBLIC OFFICIAL! ... I KNOW THEM FOR TRUSTWORTHY MEN! BUT YOU ---



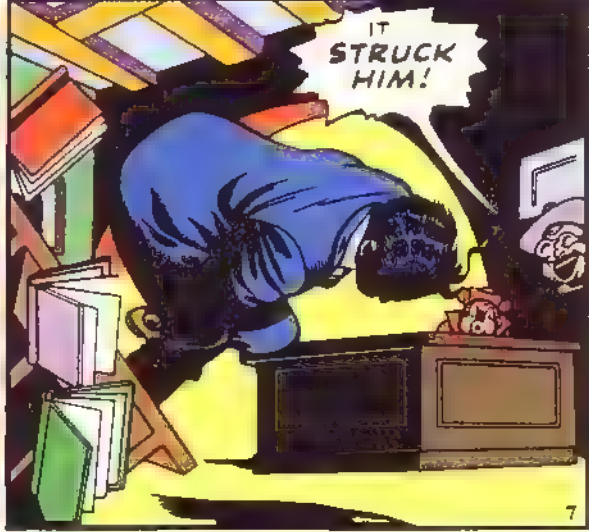
BUT YOU'VE FOLLOWED US -- CUT OUR PHONE WIRE -- JUST AFTER YOUR EX-BOSS TOLD ME YOU WERE A KNIFE-THROWER!



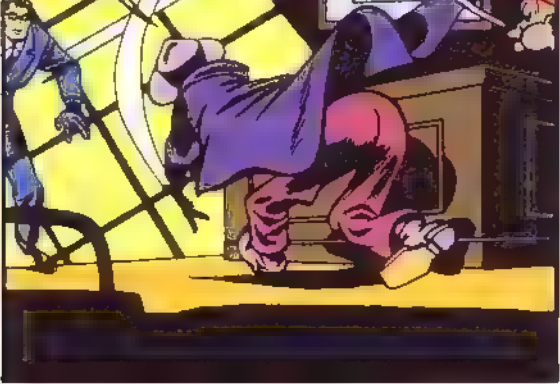
WHO SAYS THE KNIFE THAT KILLED SKEETER WAS THROWN?



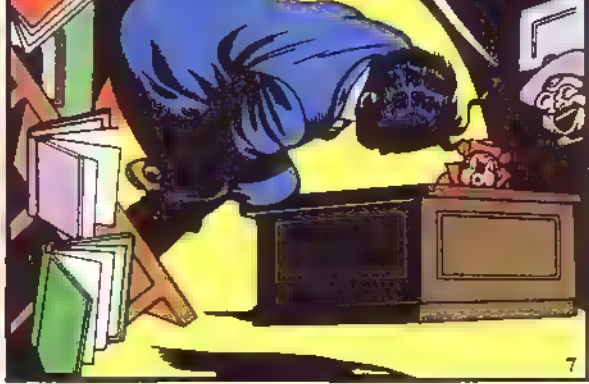
I WANTED TO SEE IF YOU WERE SUFFICIENTLY WORRIED TO FOLLOW US FOR A SHOWDOWN!



I WON'T TELL YOU ---



MAYBE YOU'LL TELL ME HOW YOU KEPT YOUR OWN FINGER-PRINTS FROM SHOWING!



IT STRUCK HIM!



DON'T BE WORRIED, FOLKS! KNUCKLES ARE BETTER THAN KNIVES!



SO YOU WERE THE KILLER! NO FINGER-PRINTS -- BECAUSE YOU TOOK THE KNIFE BY THE BLADE TO THROW IT!

YOU'RE NOT EVEN BLEEDING! YOU MUST BE A DEVIL!

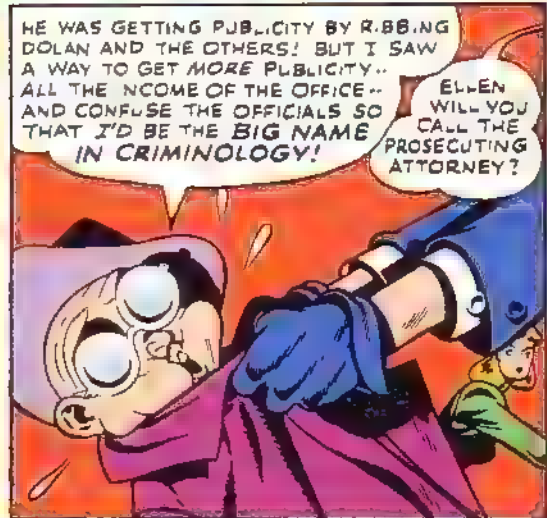


NO, JUST THE SPIRIT! BUT THE KNIFE I LEFT HANDY FOR YOU TO GRAB WAS MADE OF RUBBER! AN OLD APRIL FOOL GADGET!



YOU'LL SAVE US TROUBLE BY CONFESSING!

OKAY! SKELTER WAS THE SHOWY MEMBER OF THE COMPANY--TAKING ALL THE CREDIT WHILE I DID THE WORK! WE FIGURED TO MAKE LOTS OF MONEY-- SPLIT TWO WAYS! ...



HE WAS GETTING PUBLICITY BY ROBBERING DOLAN AND THE OTHERS! BUT I SAW A WAY TO GET MORE PUBLICITY-- ALL THE INCOME OF THE OFFICE-- AND CONFUSE THE OFFICIALS SO THAT I'D BE THE BIG NAME IN CRIMINOLOGY!

EVEN WILL YOU CALL THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY?

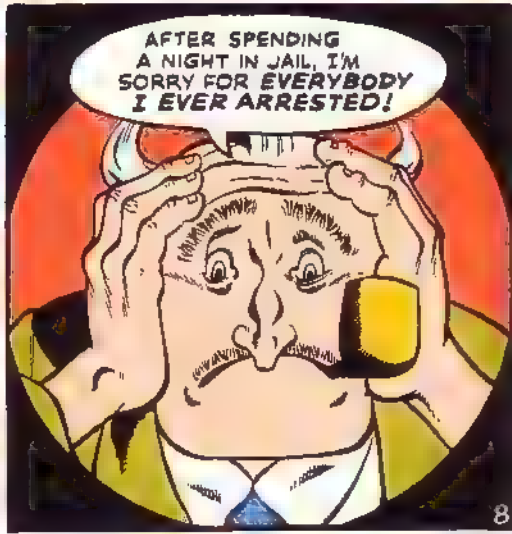


Later...

I'LL NEVER MISTRUST YOU AGAIN, SPIRIT! YOU HAD FAITH IN DADDY ALL THE TIME!



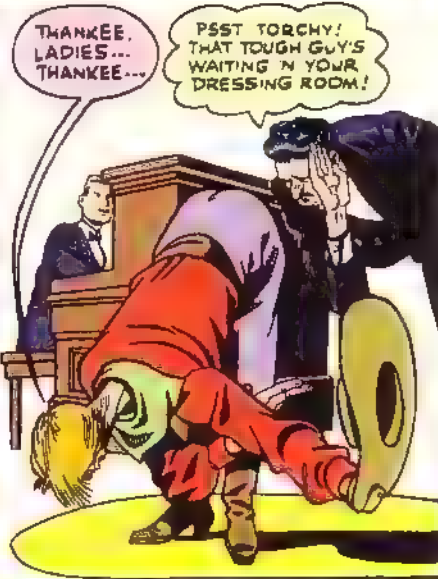
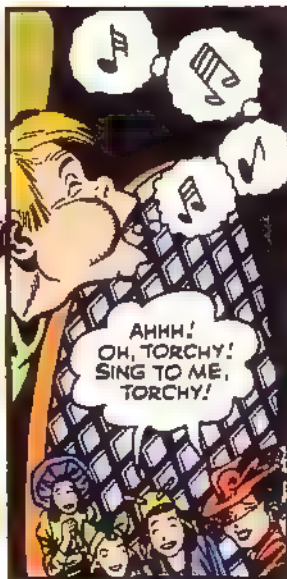
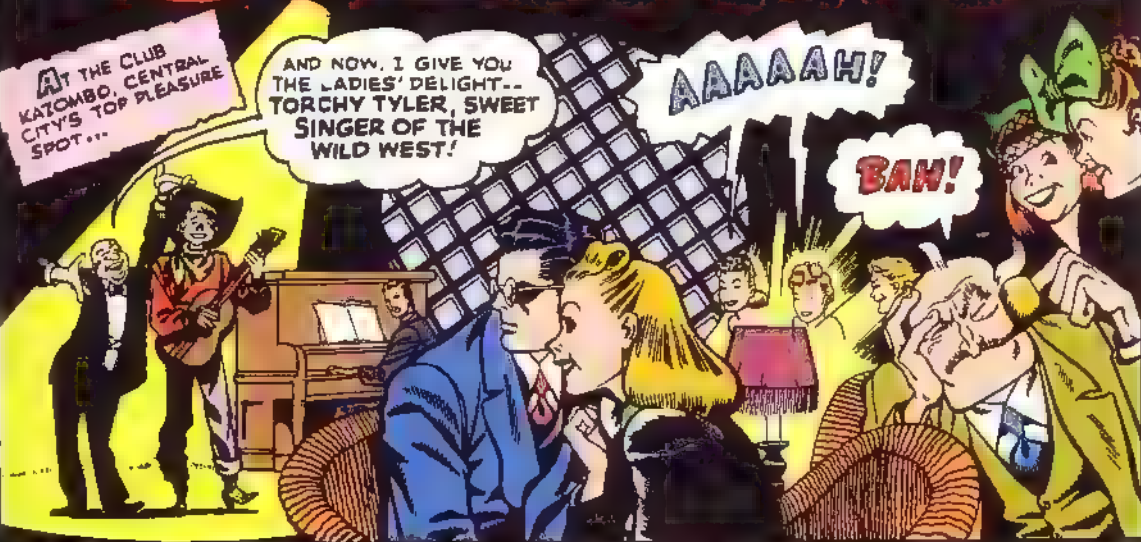
WHAFFO' YO' DOWN IN DE DUMPS, MIST' DOLAN?

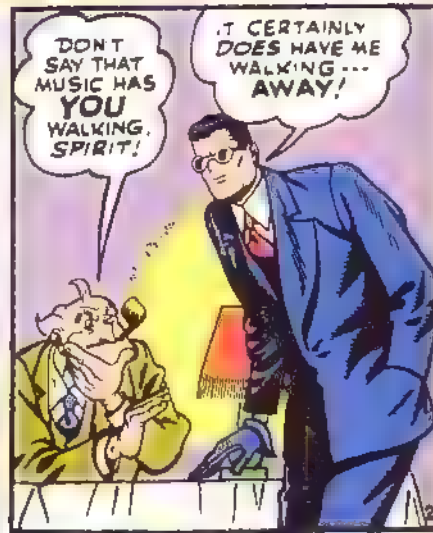
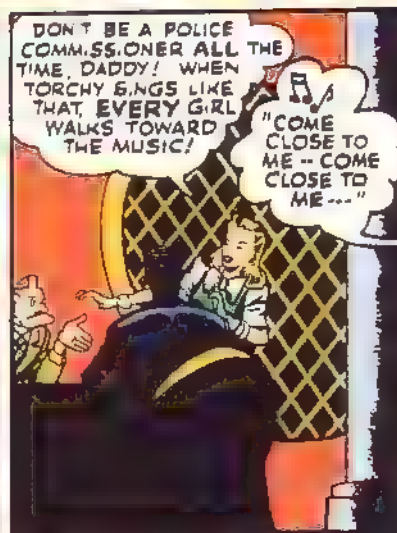
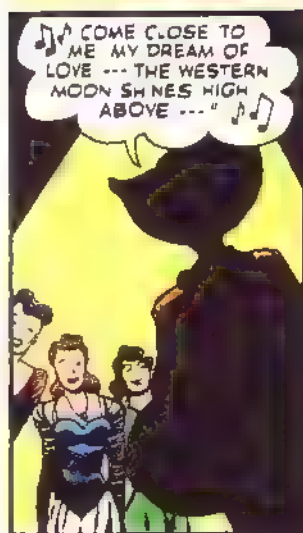
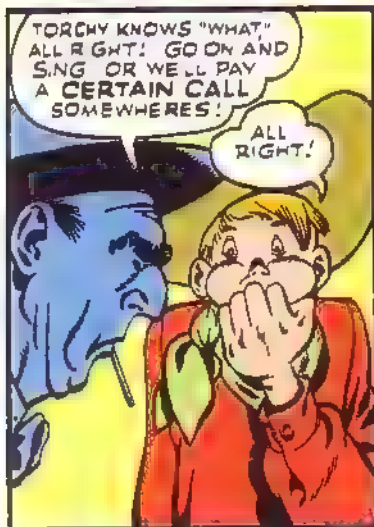
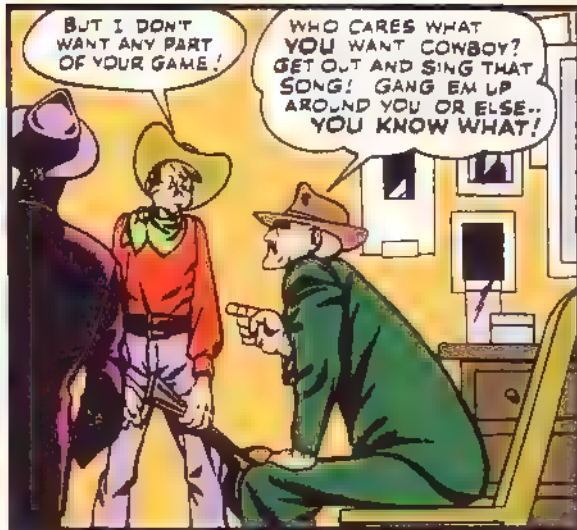
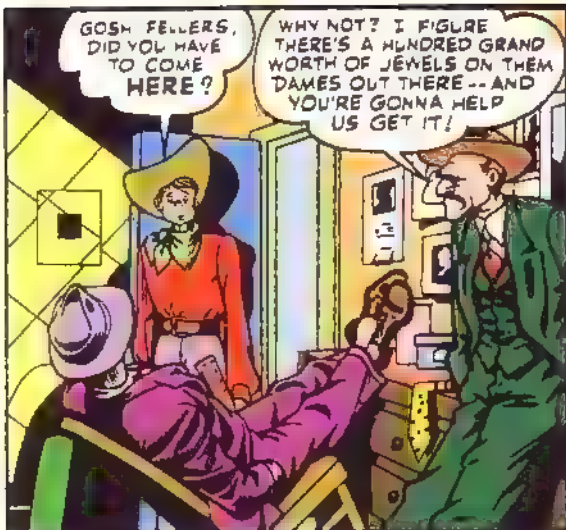


AFTER SPENDING A NIGHT IN JAIL, I'M SORRY FOR EVERYBODY I EVER ARRESTED!

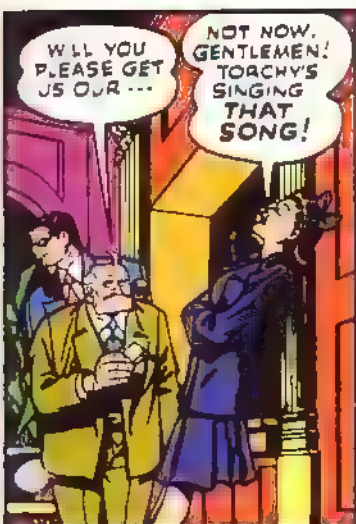


# The SPIRIT









WILL YOU PLEASE GET US OUR ...

NOT NOW, GENTLEMEN! TORCHY'S SINGING THAT SONG!



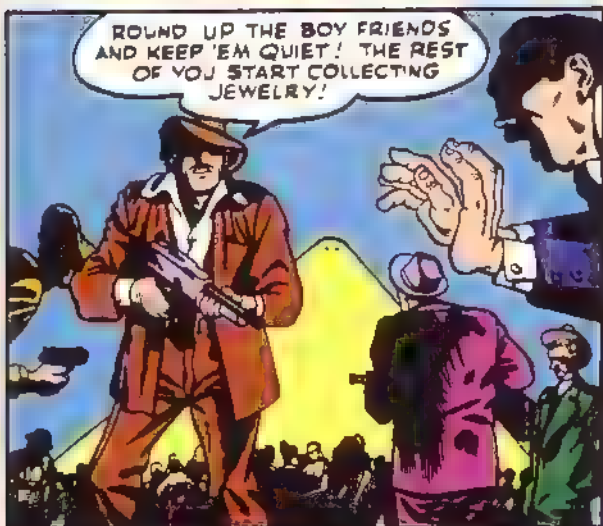
I'LL GET OUR HATS AND COATS DOLAN!

MAYBE IF WE WALK OUT ON ELLEN, SHE'LL BE THE ONE GIRL WHO LEARNS TO FORGET THAT BUBBL'NG BUCKAROO!

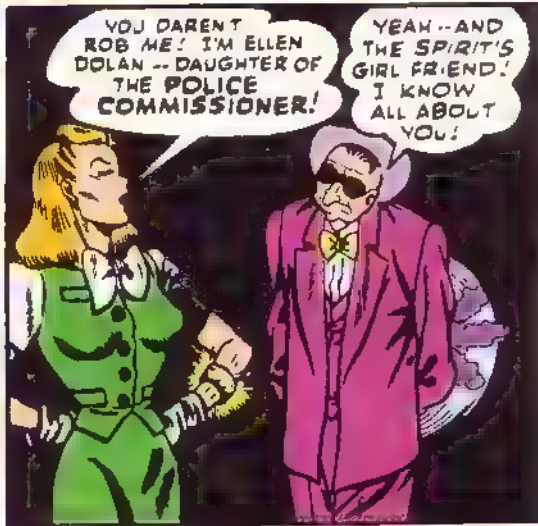


"CLOSER--CLOSER--"

OKAY, GANG! WE GOT 'EM ALL NICE AND COMPACT!



ROUND UP THE BOY FRIENDS AND KEEP 'EM QUIET! THE REST OF YOU START COLLECTING JEWELRY!

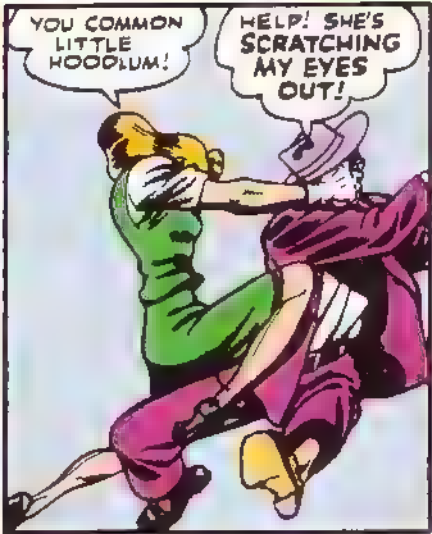


YOU DARENT ROB ME! I'M ELLEN DOLAN -- DAUGHTER OF THE POLICE COMMISSIONER!

YEAH --AND THE SPIRIT'S GIRL FRIEND! I KNOW ALL ABOUT YOU!

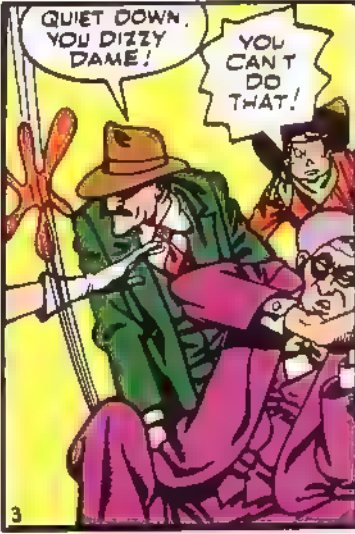


THIS BRACELET WAS GIVEN YOU BY MRS. GOLDSPOON FOR HELPING SAVE HER FROM KIDNAPPERS! IT'S WORTH A MINT!



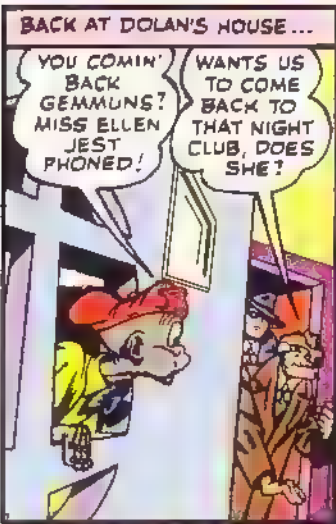
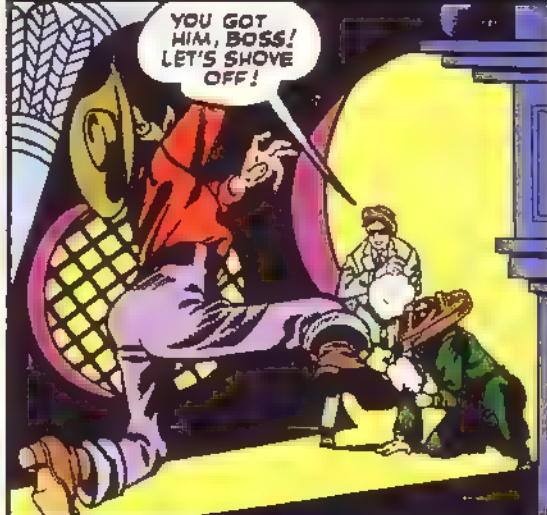
YOU COMMON LITTLE HOODLUM!

HELP! SHE'S SCRATCHING MY EYES OUT!



QUIET DOWN, YOU DIZZY DAME!

YOU CANT DO THAT!

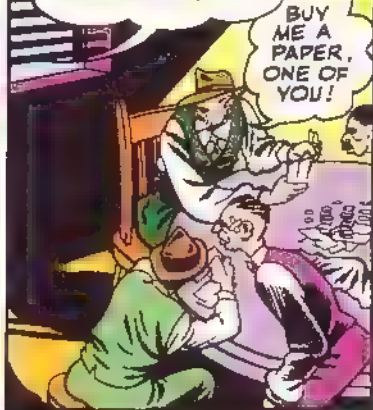




HELLO, SCOOPS?  
HERE'S A NEWS FLASH FOR  
THAT SCANDAL SHEET OF  
YOURS! IT OUGHT TO BE  
JUST IN TIME FOR YOUR  
MIDNIGHT EDITION!



FINAL EDITION! VICTIM  
OF NIGHTCLUB HOLDUP  
DYING -- POLICE EXPECT  
TO LEARN THE NAME  
OF THE KILLER!



BUY  
ME A  
PAPER,  
ONE OF  
YOU!

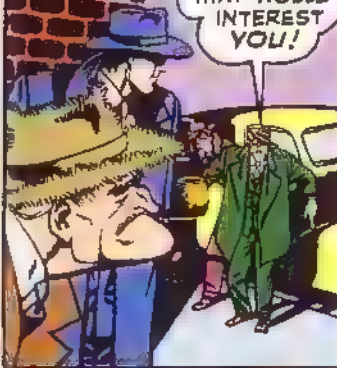
SAYS HERE THEY'RE  
TRYING TO REVIVE TORCHY  
SO HE CAN IDENTIFY  
THE GUY WHO  
SHOT HIM!

HE MIGHT  
DO IT ON  
HIS DEATH  
BED! ROUND  
UP THE GANG  
AND LET'S GO  
MAKE SURE HE  
DIES QUIET!



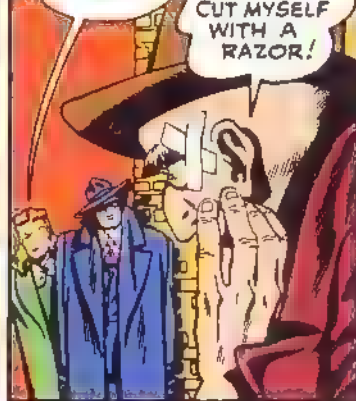
WELL, WELL, WELL!  
SCORZONE AND HIS  
PET TORPEDOES! ...  
WHAT BRINGS YOU  
HERE?

NOTHIN'  
THAT WOULD  
INTEREST  
YOU!



THERE HE IS --  
THE MAN WHO TOOK  
MY BRACELET! I  
SCRATCHED HIS  
CHEEK!

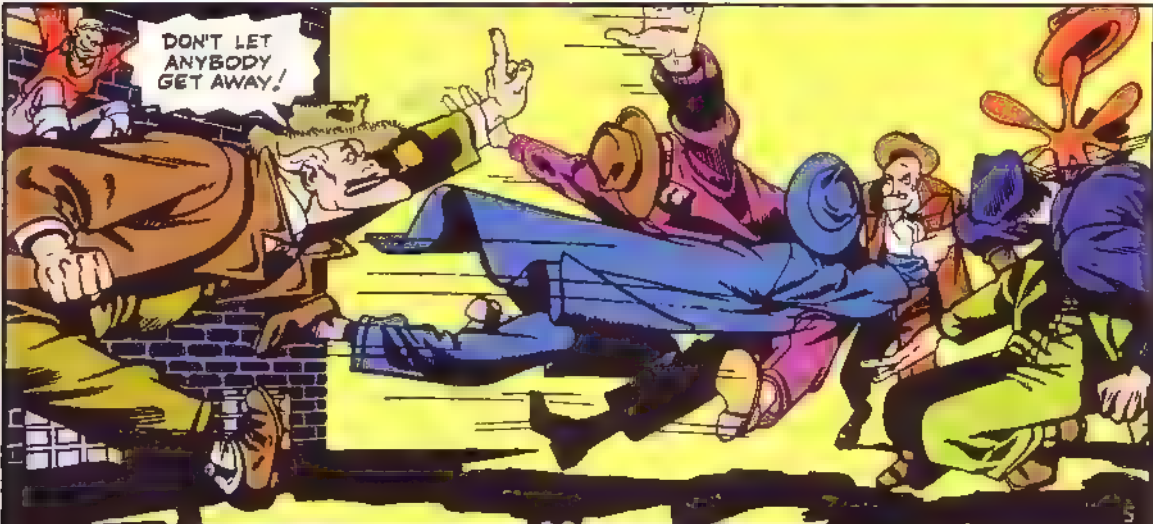
I-I-I...  
CUT MYSELF  
WITH A  
RAZOR!

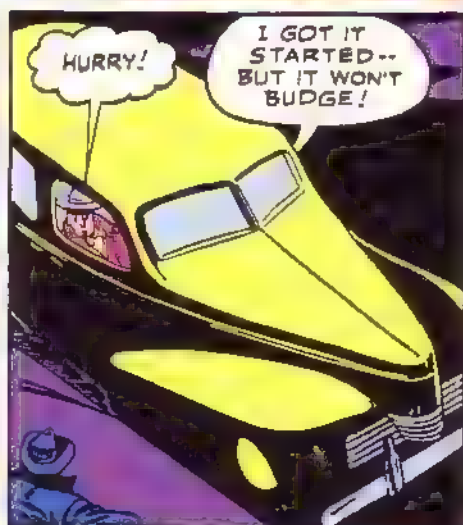
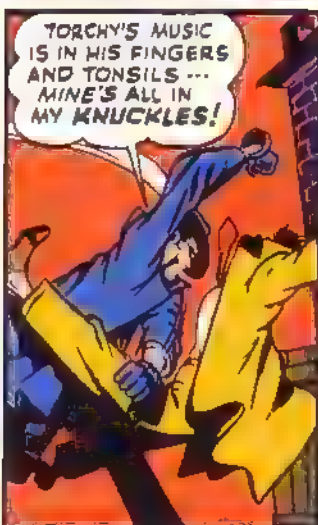
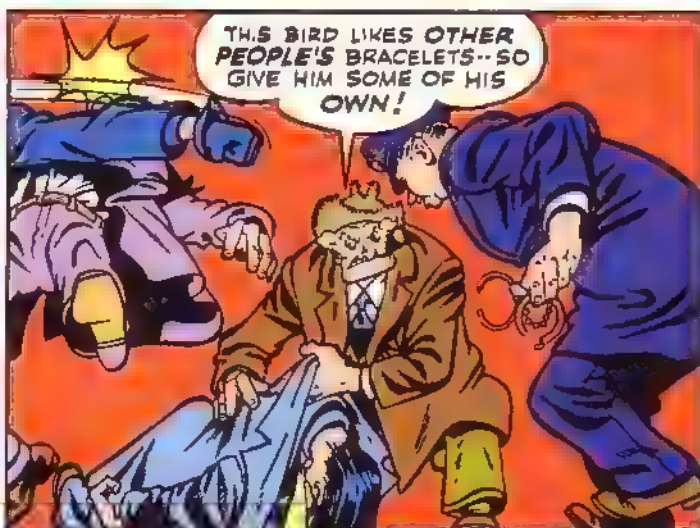


CUT OUT THE BEDTIME STORIES,  
FELLERS! YOU GOT THE RIGHT  
BUNCH THERE, COMMISSIONER  
DOLAN! NOW KEEP YOUR  
PROMISE TO ME AND  
GRAB THEM ALL!



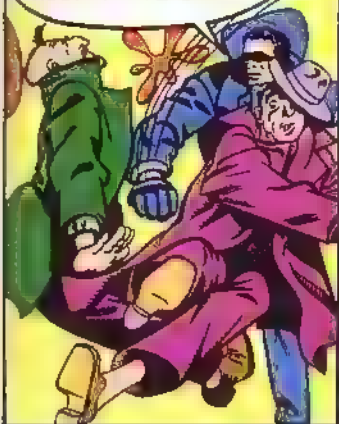
DON'T LET  
ANYBODY  
GET AWAY!







THAT WON'T KNOCK  
YOU COLD --JUST  
CHILL YOU ENOUGH TO  
KEEP WHILE I ---



--SETTLE THINGS  
WITH THIS STOOGES  
OF YOURS! THEN---



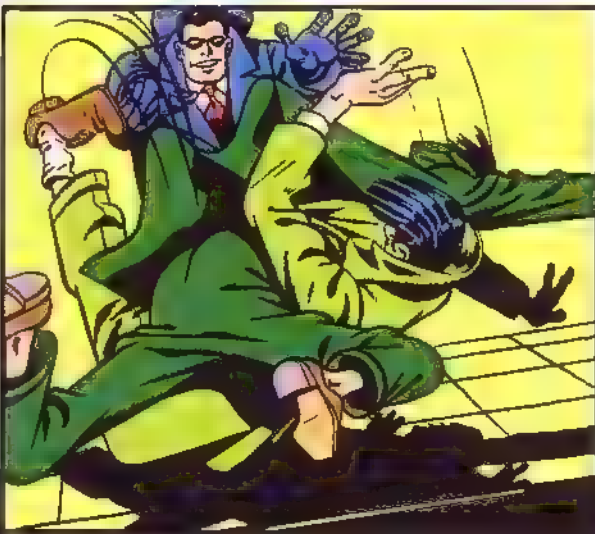
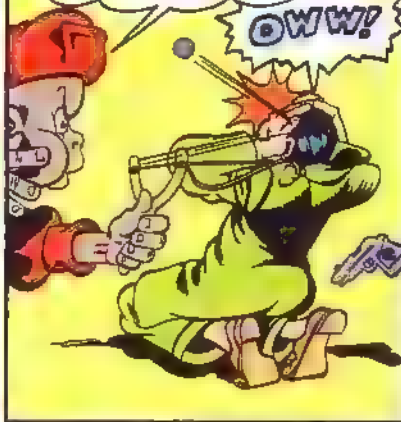
--I CAN GIVE  
YOU A REAL  
WORKOUT!



I'LL PLUG THE  
SPIRIT IF IT'S THE  
LAST THING  
I DO!

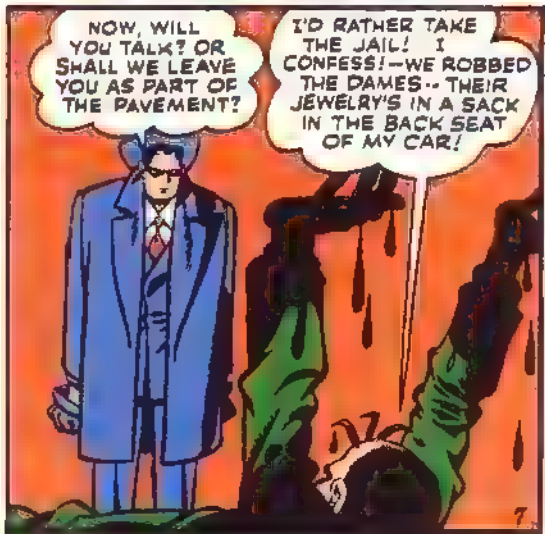


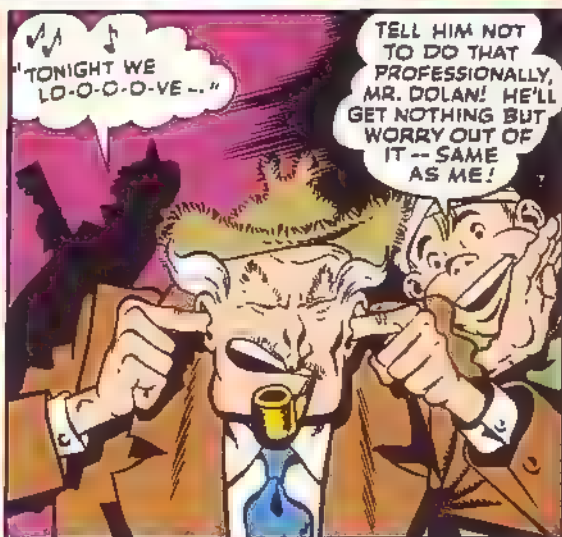
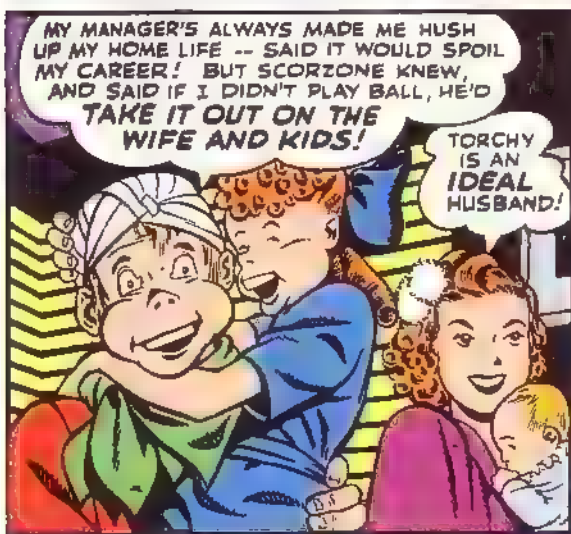
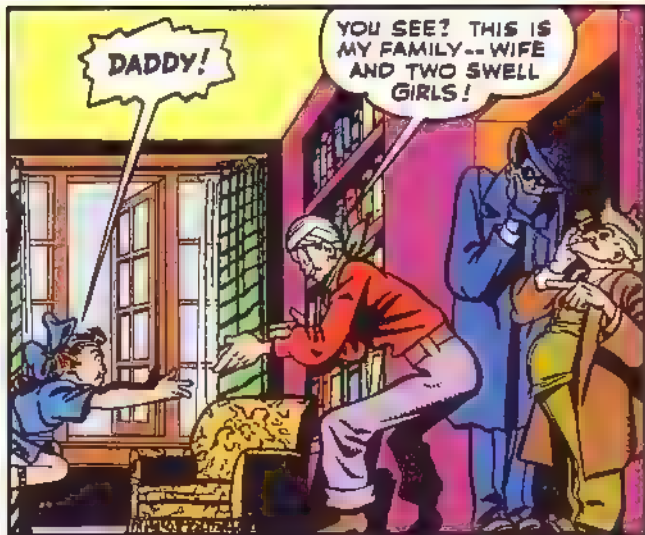
NOSSUH! DE LAST THING  
YOU'LL DO IS TIME IN  
DE BIG HOUSE!



NOW, WILL  
YOU TALK? OR  
SHALL WE LEAVE  
YOU AS PART OF  
THE PAVEMENT?

I'D RATHER TAKE  
THE JAIL! I  
CONFESS! --WE ROBBED  
THE DAMES-- THEIR  
JEWELRY'S IN A SACK  
IN THE BACK SEAT  
OF MY CAR!







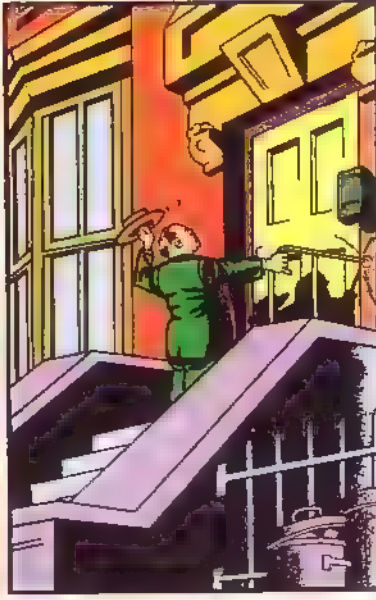
COMIC  
BOOK  
SECTION

WHO KILLED BOB SYDELL?

April 2, 1944

ACTION  
Mystery  
ADVENTURE

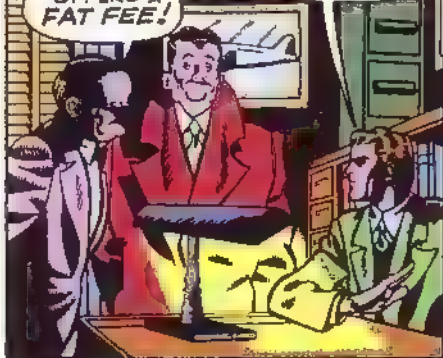
# THE SPIRIT



MEANWHILE, AT SYDELL'S OFFICE...

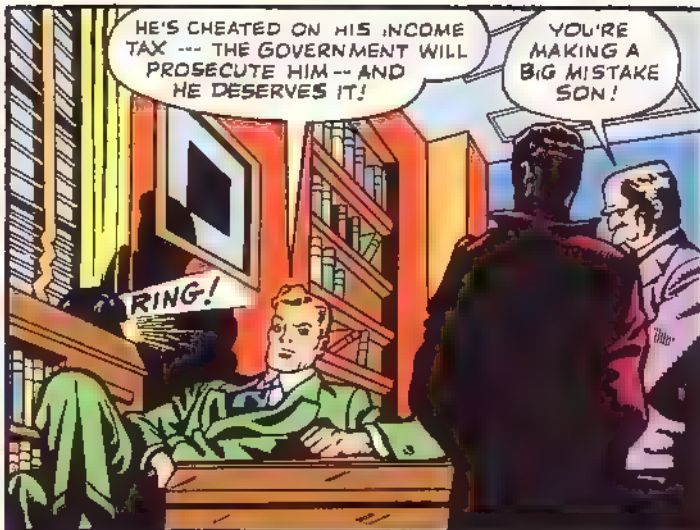
BUT, MY BOY, I'M  
YOUR **SENIOR  
PARTNER!** AND  
MR. GUFFIN HERE  
OFFERS A  
**FAT FEE!**

NO! I WON'T  
BE A PARTY  
TO SUCH  
**CROOKEDNESS!**



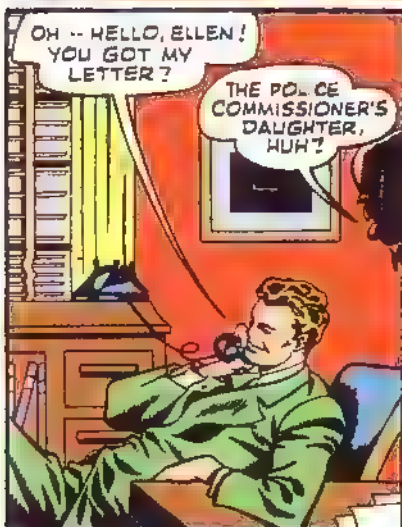
HE'S CHEATED ON HIS INCOME  
TAX --- THE GOVERNMENT WILL  
PROSECUTE HIM -- AND  
HE DESERVES IT!

YOU'RE  
MAKING A  
**BIG MISTAKE  
SON!**



OH -- HELLO, ELLEN!  
YOU GOT MY  
LETTER?

THE POLICE  
COMMISSIONER'S  
DAUGHTER,  
HUH?



BOB, I DIDN'T REALIZE  
YOU FELT SO SERIOUSLY  
ABOUT ME! ... I'M ONLY  
INTERESTED IN THE  
**SPIRIT!**



YOU LOOK AS IF  
YOU'RE HARD  
HIT BY  
SOMETHING,  
MY BOY!

I AM ---  
EXCUSE ME,  
I'M GOING FOR  
A **LONG  
WALK!**



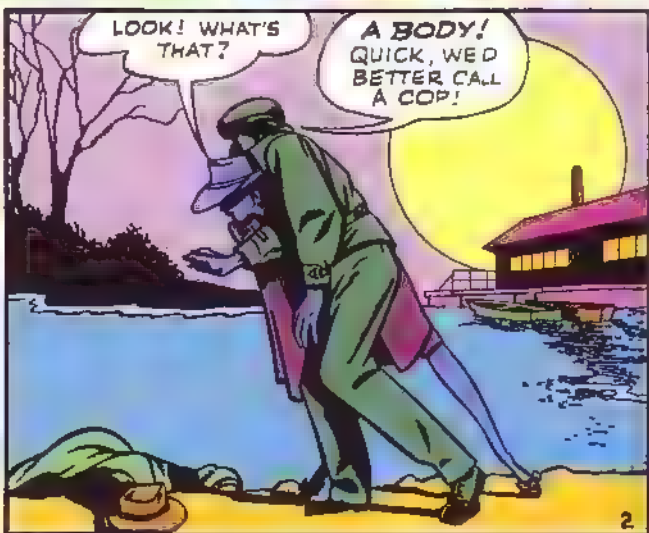
LOVELY  
NIGHT!

AND HOW!  
PEACEFUL PARK--  
QUIET SKY----  
**GEE!**



LOOK! WHAT'S  
THAT?

A **BODY!**  
QUICK, WE'D  
BETTER CALL  
A COP!





A SHORT TIME LATER...

WHAT'S THAT YOU SAY, INSPECTOR? BOB SYDELL-- DROWNED?

OH, HOW TERRIBLE!

THEY FISHED HIM OUT OF THE PARK POND! THINK IT'S SUICIDE! COME ALONG, SPIRIT!

I'M COMING, TOO!

WHY ARE YOU SO SURE IT'S SUICIDE?

HE HAD THIS LETTER ON HIM! THE WATER SOAKED IT OPEN!

IT'S TO ELLEN! IT SAYS: "YOU'RE RIGHT, I SHOULDN'T HAVE FELT ABOUT YOU AS I DID-- BUT IT'S TOO LATE TO CHANGE NOW."

SAD--BUT THE LETTER PROVES THIS WAS NOT A SUICIDE!

HOW, SPIRIT?

THAT ENVELOPE WAS STAMPED! HE INTENDED TO MAIL IT TO ELLEN-- BUT HE WAS KILLED BEFORE HE HAD A CHANCE!

WHAT WAS HE DOING OUT HERE, THEN?

MAYBE HE WAS GOING TO DROP IT IN THIS PARK MAILBOX WHEN---

LOOK OUT MIST' SPIRIT BOSS!

SOMEONE TRIED TO GET ME, THAT TIME!

CALLING ALL PARK POLICE! ROUND UP EVERYBODY WHO'S NEAR THIS LAKE AND BRING THEM TO THE PARK VILLA!

AT THE PARK VILLA, DOLAN  
AND THE SPIRIT CONDUCT  
AN INVESTIGATION ...

FOUR SUSPICIOUS  
CHARACTERS ROUNDED  
UP! WE'LL START WITH  
THIS YOUNG LADY!

I FOLLOWED  
BOB SYDELL  
AROUND BECAUSE  
I LOVED HIM--AND  
WORRIED ABOUT  
HIM-- APPARENTLY  
WITH GOOD REASON!

I'M J.F. GRAME,  
SYDELL'S PARTNER!  
HE LEFT THE OFFICE  
IN A STRANGE MOOD!  
I FOLLOWED BECAUSE  
I WAS WORRIED  
ABOUT HIM!

AND I'M MR. GRAME'S  
CLIENT! I WAS TRYING  
TO FIND HIM TO  
DISCUSS LAW  
BUSINESS!

LOOK WHAT  
THIS GUY HAD  
ON HIM!

WHAT OF  
IT? YOU  
SAY BOB  
SYDELL  
WAS  
DROWNED!

HMMM! I THINK  
I KNOW THESE  
FINGERPRINTS!  
THEY'VE BOBBED  
UP IN A COUPLE  
OF UNSOLVED  
MURDERS!

HE'S  
RUNNING,  
DADDY!

THIS IS OUR  
MURDERER,  
SPIRIT!

OKAY, NO USE TRYING  
TO HOLD OUT! I'M A  
PROFESSIONAL KILLER--  
REASONABLE RATES  
FOR NEAT RUBOUTS--

WHO HIRED  
YOU TO KILL  
BOB SYDELL?

I DIDN'T KILL HIM!  
I WAS GOING TO, BUT  
JUST AS I WAS CATCHING  
UP WITH HIM NEAR THE  
LAKE, I SAW---

AGH ...  
GAAAAAAA!!





HE **STOPPED BREATHING!**  
BAD HEART, I  
GUESS!

YOU MUST  
HAVE HIT  
HIM TOO  
HARD,  
SPIRIT!

PARDON--



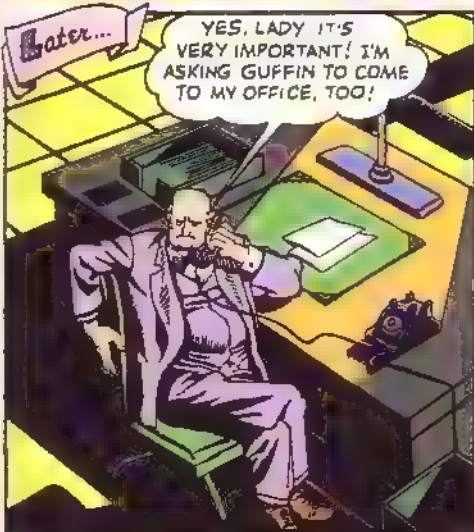
IF YOU DON'T  
MAKE SPECIFIC  
CHARGES, YOU  
CAN'T **HOLD**  
US! COME ON,  
GUFFIN!

DON'T TRY  
TO LEAVE  
TOWN,  
EITHER  
OF YOU!

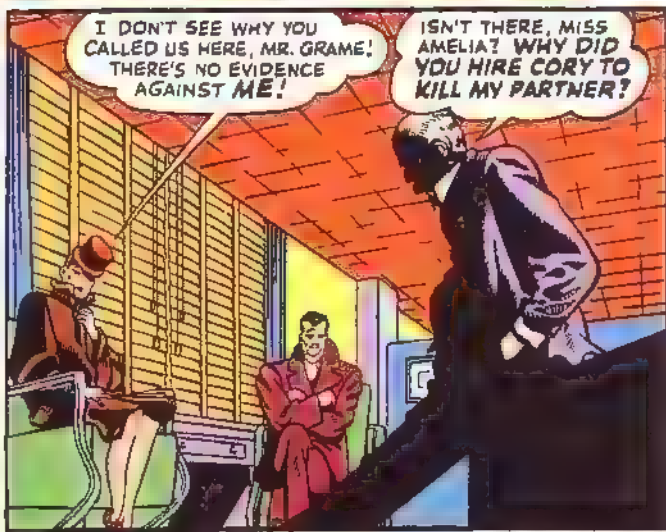


I'M GOING, TOO!  
YOU KNOW MY  
ADDRESS, COMMISSIONER  
DOLAN!

I'M GOING TO  
THE MORGUE  
WITH THAT DEAD  
ASSASSIN! BUT  
FIRST, YOU TWO  
CAN DO ME A  
FAVOR ---



Water...  
YES, LADY IT'S  
VERY IMPORTANT! I'M  
ASKING GUFFIN TO COME  
TO MY OFFICE, TOO!



I DON'T SEE WHY YOU  
CALLED US HERE, MR. GRAME!  
THERE'S NO EVIDENCE  
AGAINST ME!

ISN'T THERE, MISS  
AMELIA? WHY DID  
YOU HIRE CORY TO  
KILL MY PARTNER?



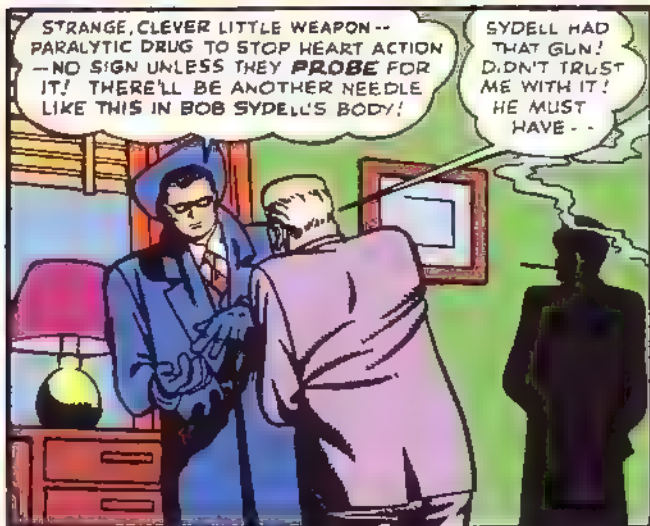
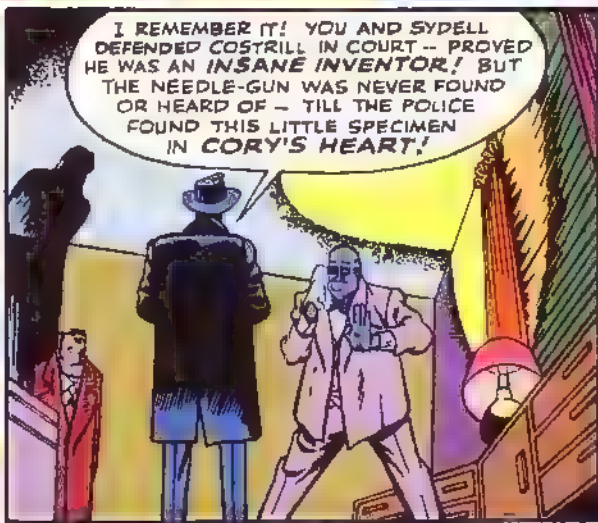
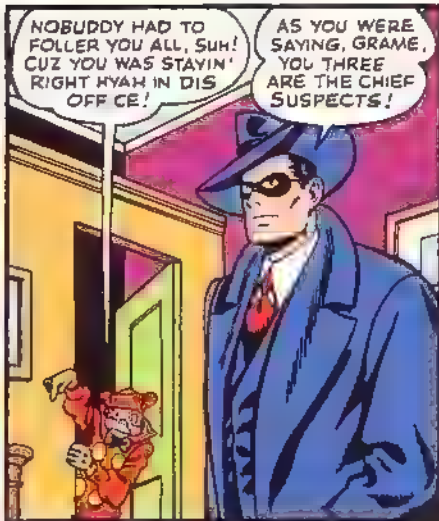
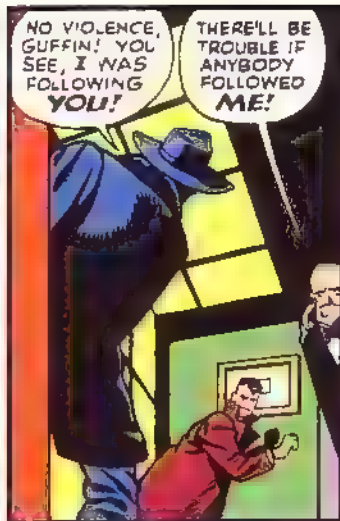
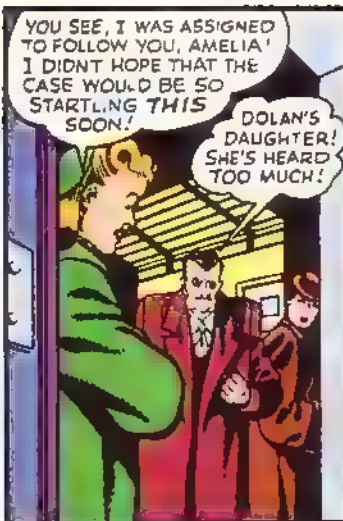
HOW  
DARE  
YOU?--

LOOK, WE'RE THE THREE CHIEF  
SUSPECTS! GUFFIN AND I DIDN'T  
SQUABBLE WITH SYDELL UNTIL  
**JUST BEFORE HIS DEATH ---**  
CORY MUST HAVE BEEN HIRED  
**HOURS EARLIER!** THAT  
LEAVES YOU WITH A  
QUESTION TO ANSWER!

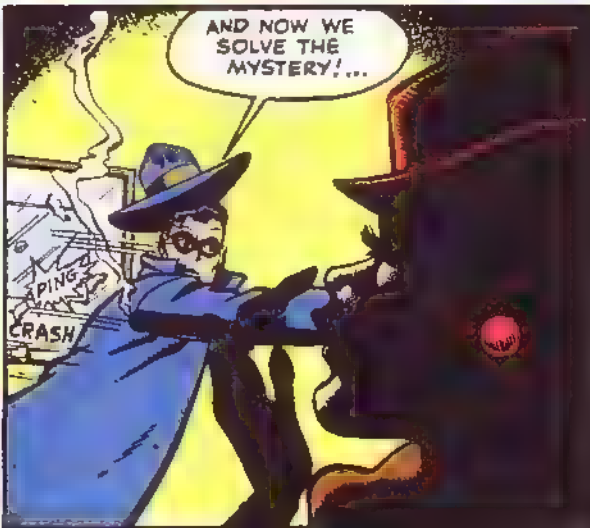
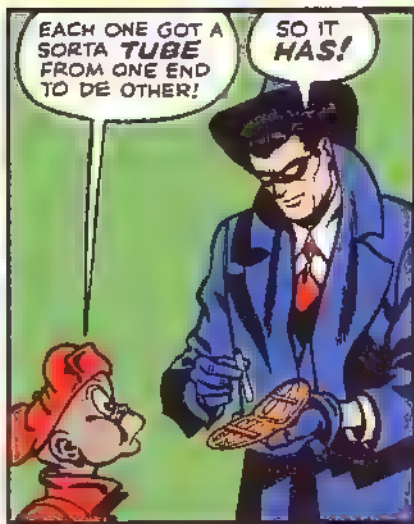
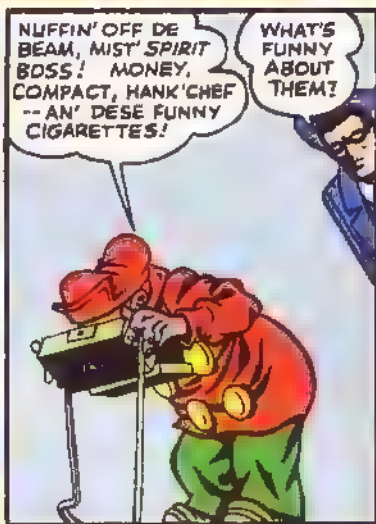
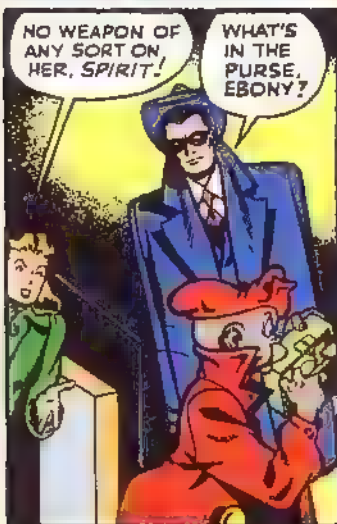


I'M NOT AFRAID TO ADMIT  
IT IN **THIS COMPANY!** I  
**DID HIRE CORY!** SINCE  
I DID, WHY SHOULD I  
KILL BOB MYSELF?

THAT SOUNDS  
LIKE THE  
BEGINNING OF  
A MOST  
**FASCINATING**  
CONFESSION!



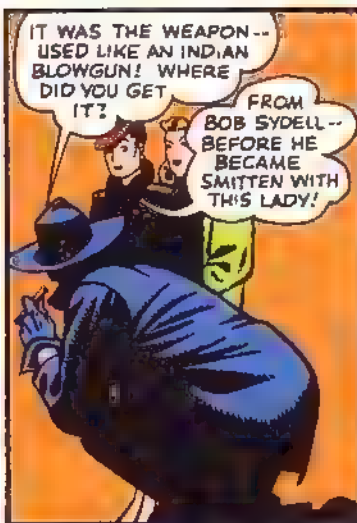






DON'T STRUGGLE!  
DADDY SHOWED  
ME THIS  
JIU-JITSU  
HOLD!

SHE'S  
HARMLESS,  
NOW,  
ELLEN!



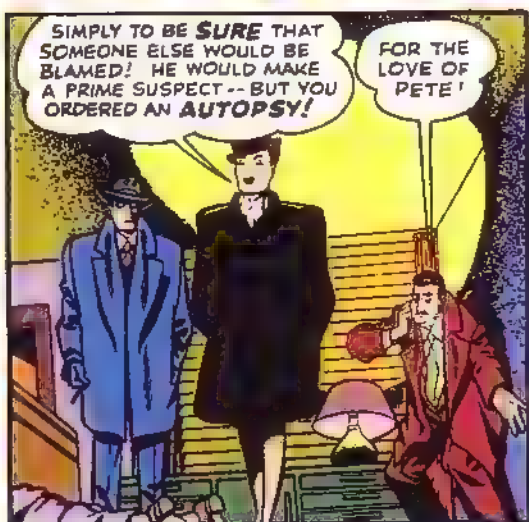
IT WAS THE WEAPON--  
USED LIKE AN INDIAN  
BLOWGUN! WHERE  
DID YOU GET  
IT?

FROM  
BOB SYDELL--  
BEFORE HE  
BECAME  
SMITTEN WITH  
THIS LADY!



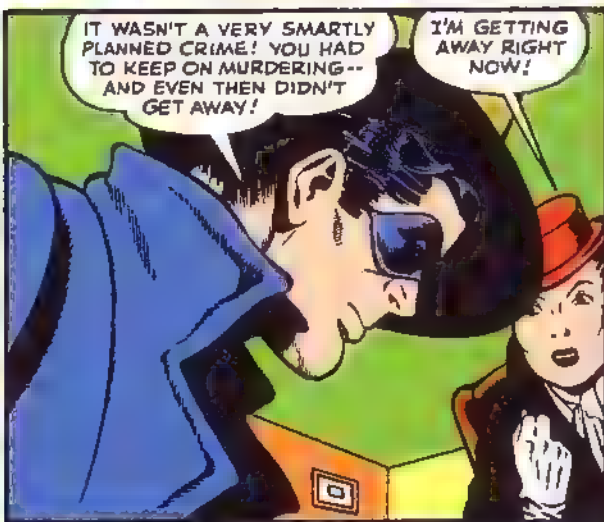
HE DIDN'T TRUST SO  
DANGEROUS A TOOL  
WITH HIS PARTNER,  
GRAME, SO HE  
ASKED ME TO  
HIDE IT!

THEN YOU USED  
IT AGAINST  
HIM! BUT WHY  
DID YOU HIRE  
DORY?



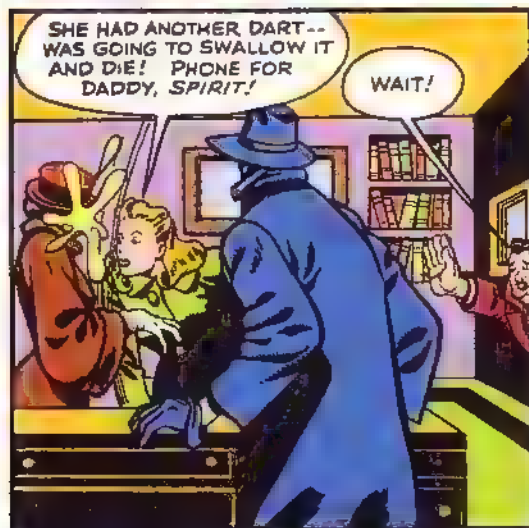
SIMPLY TO BE **SURE** THAT  
SOMEONE ELSE WOULD BE  
BLAMED! HE WOULD MAKE  
A PRIME SUSPECT--BUT YOU  
ORDERED AN **AUTOPSY**!

FOR THE  
LOVE OF  
PETE!



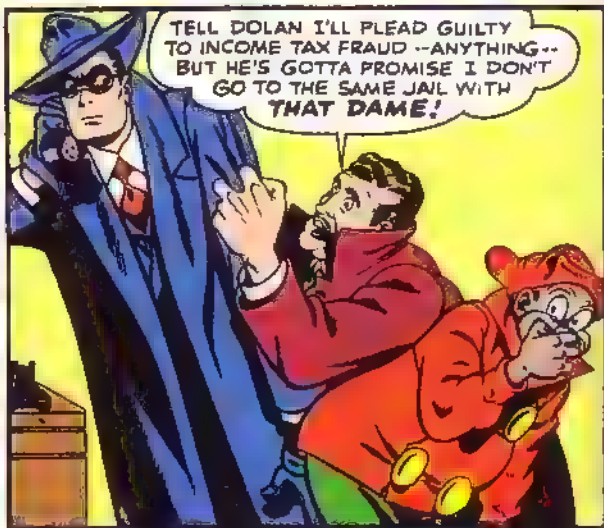
IT WASN'T A VERY SMARTLY  
PLANNED CRIME! YOU HAD  
TO KEEP ON MURDERING--  
AND EVEN THEN DIDN'T  
GET AWAY!

I'M GETTING  
AWAY RIGHT  
NOW!



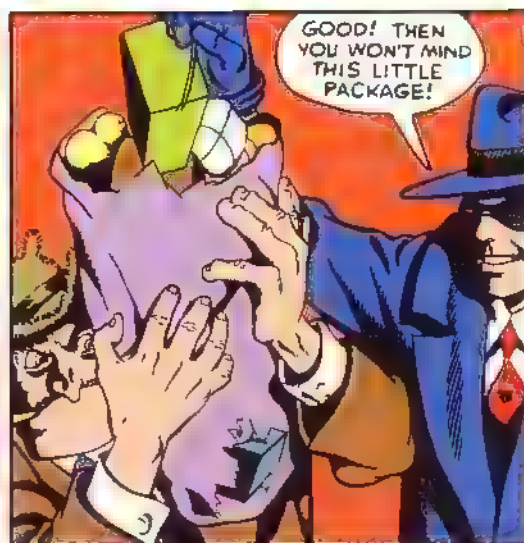
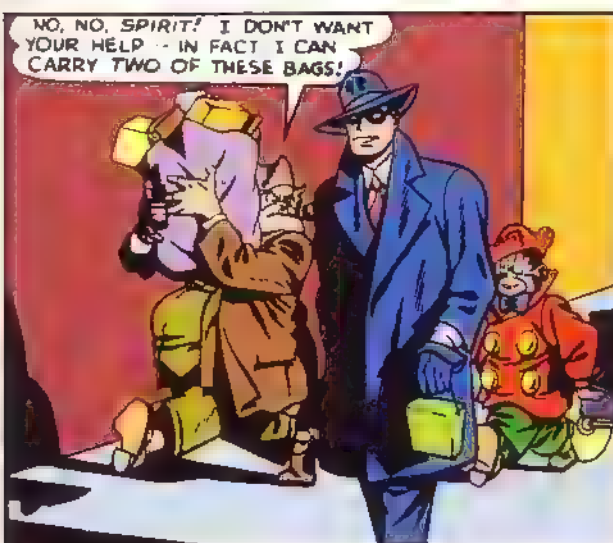
SHE HAD ANOTHER DART--  
WAS GOING TO SWALLOW IT  
AND DIE! PHONE FOR  
DADDY, SPIRIT!

WAIT!



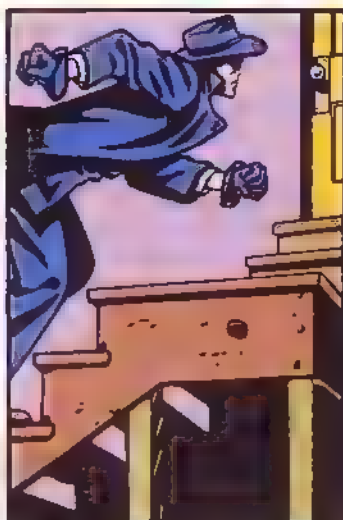
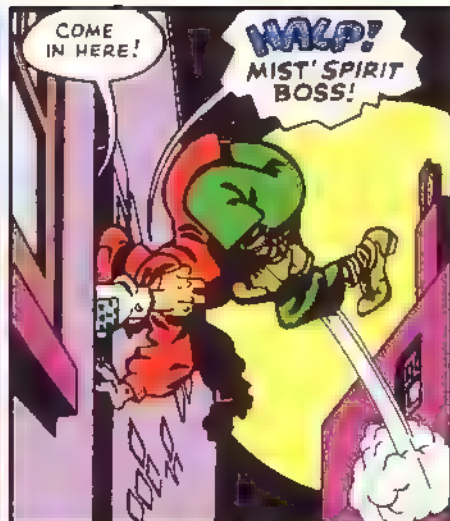
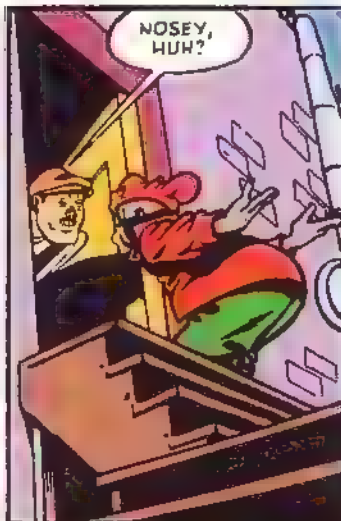
TELL DOLAN I'LL PLEAD GUILTY  
TO INCOME TAX FRAUD--ANYTHING--  
BUT HE'S GOTTA PROMISE I DON'T  
GO TO THE SAME JAIL WITH  
THAT DAME!







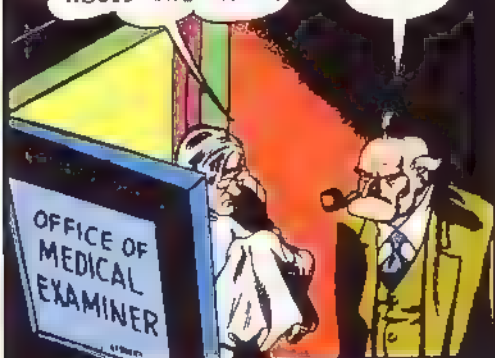




WHILE, AT POLICE HEADQUARTERS...

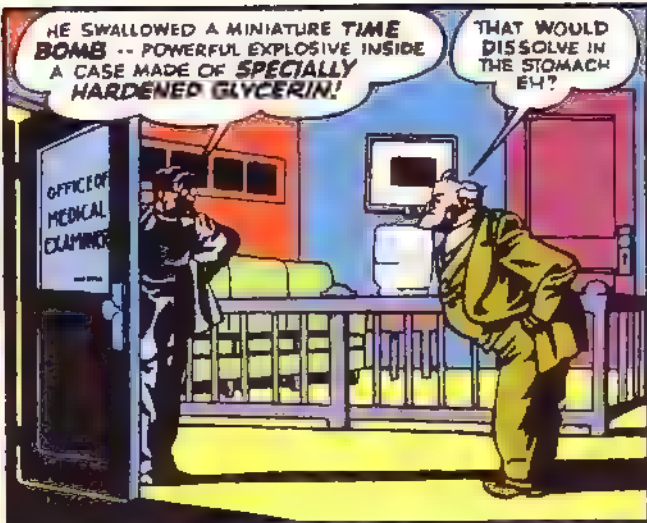
YOU WERE WISE TO ORDER AN IMMEDIATE AUTOPSY, COMMISSIONER! WE FOUND THE MAN WAS MURDERED!... IF WE'D DELAYED, WE NEVER WOULD HAVE KNOWN!

WHY?



HE SWALLOWED A MINIATURE TIME BOMB -- POWERFUL EXPLOSIVE INSIDE A CASE MADE OF SPECIALLY HARDENED GLYCERIN!

THAT WOULD DISSOLVE IN THE STOMACH EH?



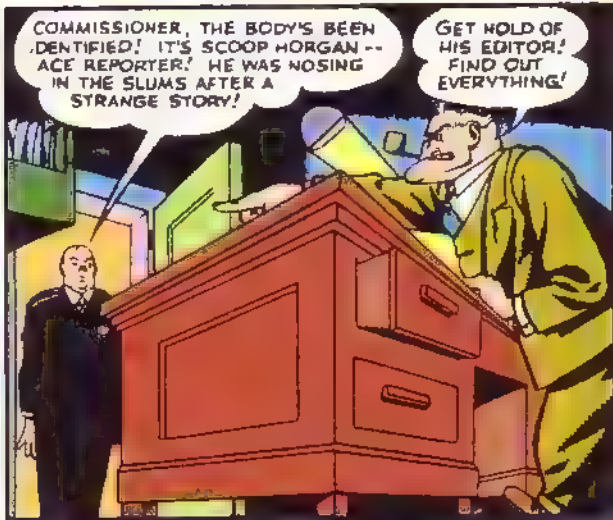
IN TIME, YES! AFTER THE EXPLOSION BROKE IT TO PIECES, THE SHARP FRAGMENTS STRUCK **DEATH IN EVERY DIRECTION!** A FEW MORE HOURS, AND WE'D HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO TELL THE REASON FOR THAT INTERNAL WOUND!

ALL THAT DEVIL SH PLANNING TO KILL A BUM!



COMMISSIONER, THE BODY'S BEEN IDENTIFIED! IT'S SCOOP HORGAN -- ACE REPORTER! HE WAS NOSING IN THE SLUMS AFTER A STRANGE STORY!

GET HOLD OF HIS EDITOR! FIND OUT EVERYTHING!



I CALLED, BUT THE EDITOR DIDN'T KNOW! SCOOP HADN'T REPORTED!

ONLY THE SPIRIT HAD A HUNCH! WHY DON'T I HEAR FROM HIM?



YOU'RE WAKING UP, SPIRIT! WELCOME TO OUR LITTLE SANCTUM--AND SOON, GOODBYE!

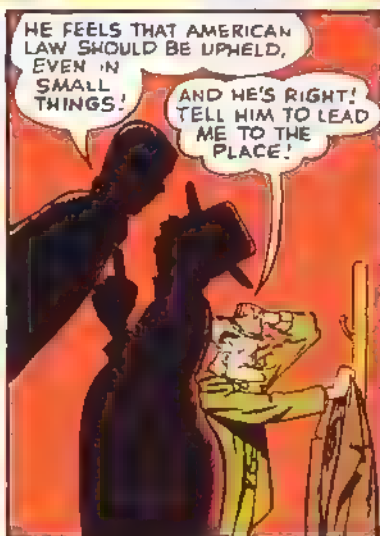
APPARENTLY YOU'RE ONLY PART-TIME BUMS!



EXACTLY! YOU'RE TOO WIDE-AWAKE TO LIVE! YOU SEE ---

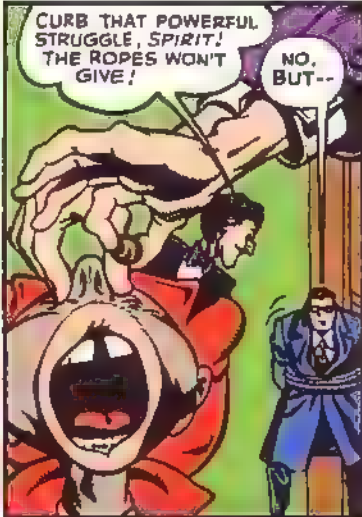








RIGHT AGAIN, BOSS!



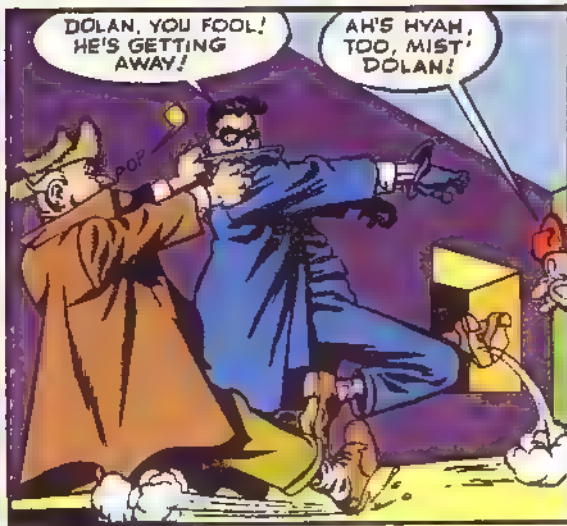
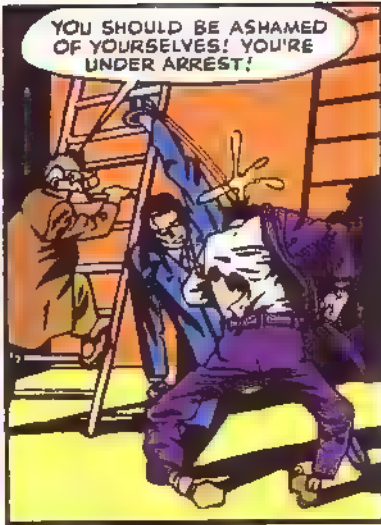
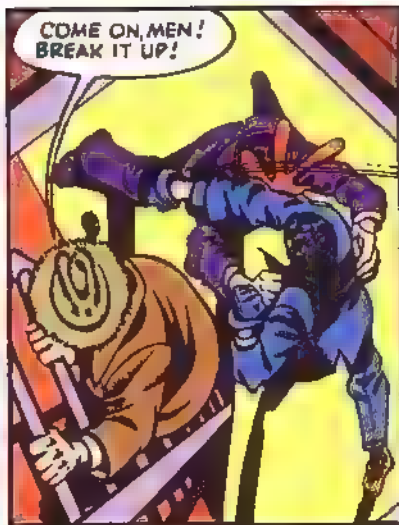
NO, BUT--

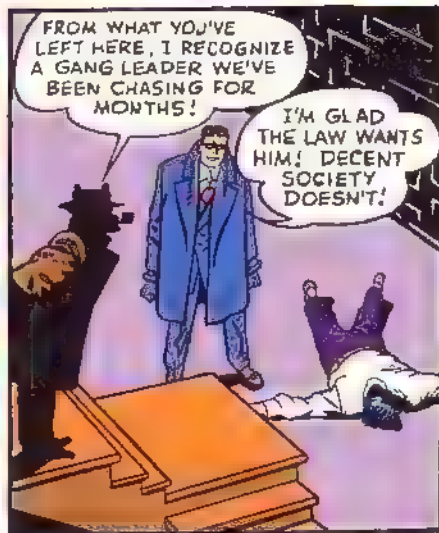
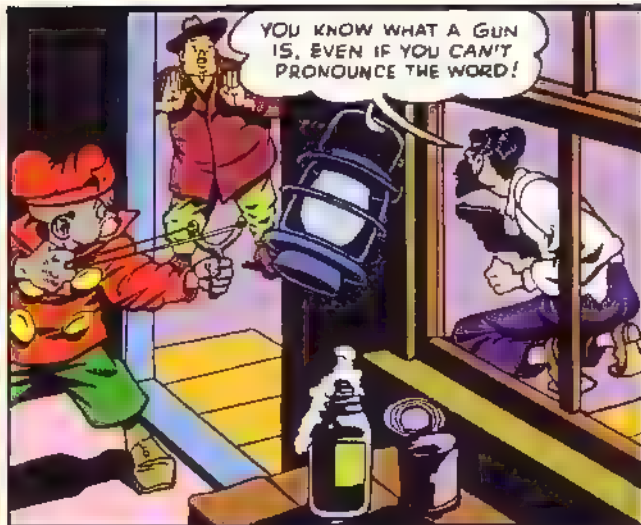


GIVE ME THAT BOMB! AND SETTLE HIM NOW!











COMIC  
BOOK  
SECTION

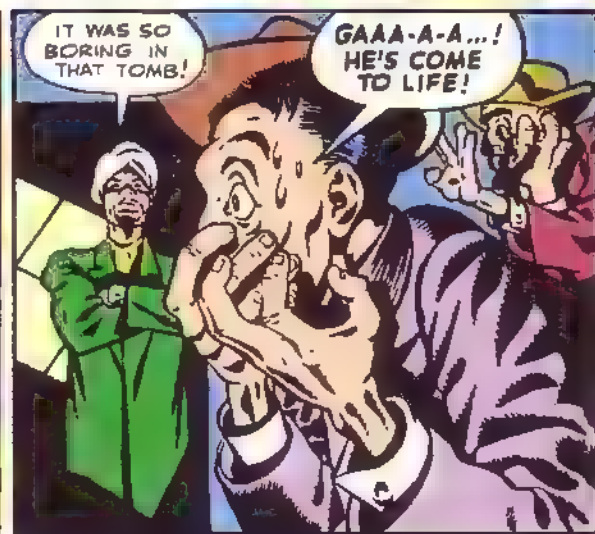
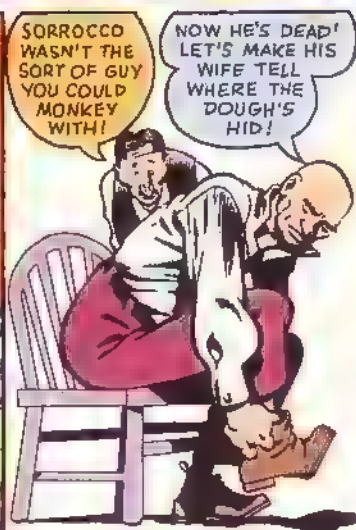
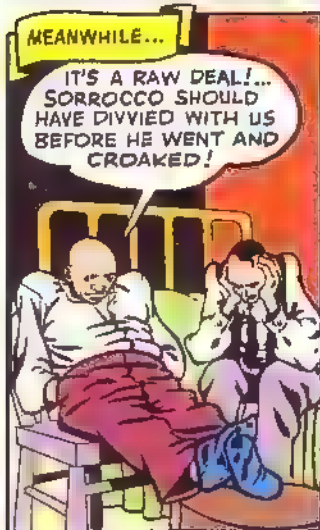
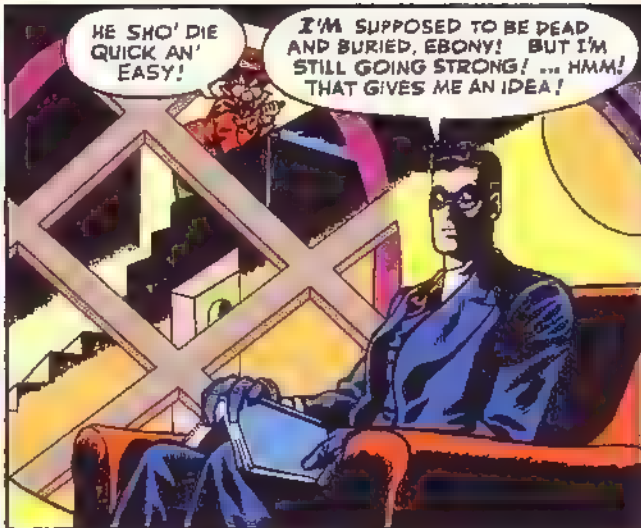
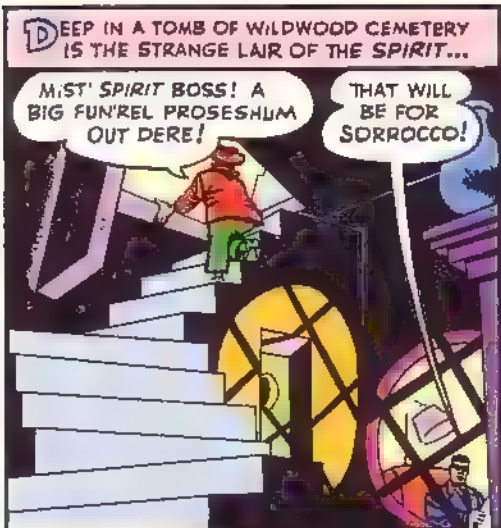
SUSPENDED ANIMATION

April 16, 1944

ACTION  
Mystery  
ADVENTURE

# The SPIRIT









YEEEEEOW!



OUTA THE WAY!  
WE AIN'T GOT TIME  
TO RUN AROUND  
YOU!

WHAT'S  
THE  
EXCITEMENT?



THEN WE'LL  
RUN OVER  
YOU...  
UHHH!

STOP A  
SECOND!  
LET'S TALK  
THIS OVER!



IT'S THE  
SPIRIT!

RUN! TWO SPIRITS  
IN ONE NIGHT'S TOO  
RICH FOR ME BLOOD!



AT LEAST YOU STAYED  
AROUND! COME ON, WE'LL  
VISIT THE POLICE  
COMMISSIONER!



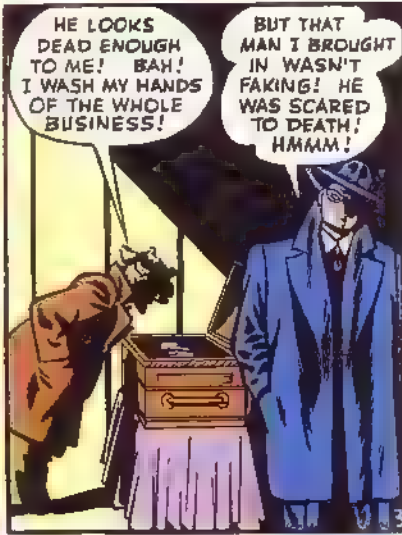
I SWEAR IT'S TRUE!  
SORROCCO WALKED  
AND TALKED!  
I SAW HIM!

YOU'RE  
CRAZY! THE  
POLICE DOCTOR  
PRONOUNCED  
HIM DEAD!



LET'S TAKE  
A LOOK AT  
THE TOMB.  
DOLAN!

BUT THE  
GUY'S DEAD  
AND BURIED!  
... OH, WELL.  
IF YOU  
INSIST!



HE LOOKS  
DEAD ENOUGH  
TO ME! BAH!  
I WASH MY HANDS  
OF THE WHOLE  
BUSINESS!

BUT THAT  
MAN I BROUGHT  
IN WASN'T  
FAKING! HE  
WAS SCARED  
TO DEATH!  
HMM!



IN THE MEANTIME...

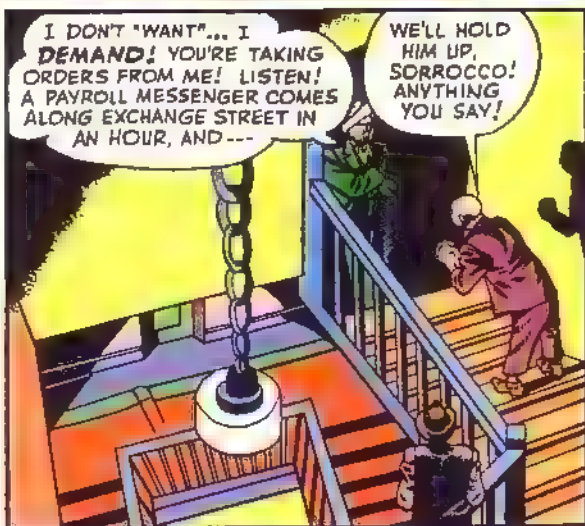
MAYBE WE WAS  
ONLY DREAMING,  
OR ---  
HEY!

IT  
WAS NO  
DREAM!



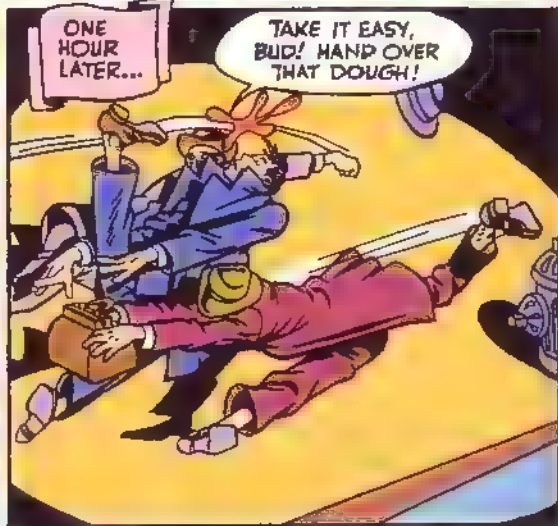
YOU WOULDN'T WAIT AT  
MY HOUSE, SO I CAME  
TO VISIT YOU!

WH-WH-WHAT  
DO YOU WANT?



I DON'T "WANT"... I  
**DEMAND!** YOU'RE TAKING  
ORDERS FROM ME! LISTEN!  
A PAYROLL MESSENGER COMES  
ALONG EXCHANGE STREET IN  
AN HOUR, AND ---

WE'LL HOLD  
HIM UP,  
SORROCCO!  
ANYTHING  
YOU SAY!



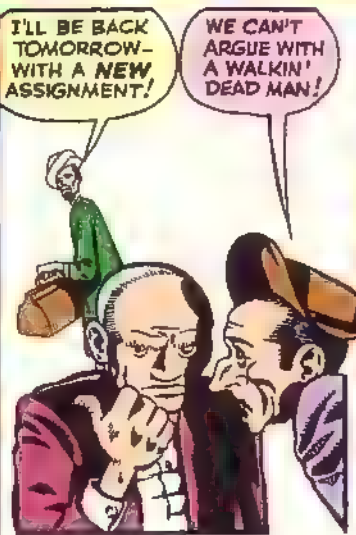
ONE  
HOUR  
LATER...

TAKE IT EASY,  
BUD! HAND OVER  
THAT DOUGH!



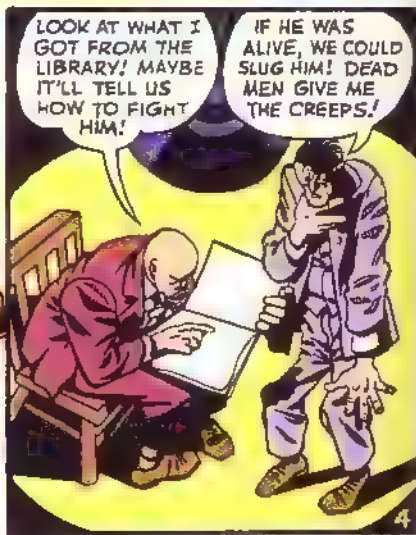
HERE'S THE LOOT!  
YOU GET THE  
CHIEF'S SHARE!

WRONG!  
I GET  
**ALL**  
OF IT!



I'LL BE BACK  
TOMORROW--  
WITH A NEW  
ASSIGNMENT!

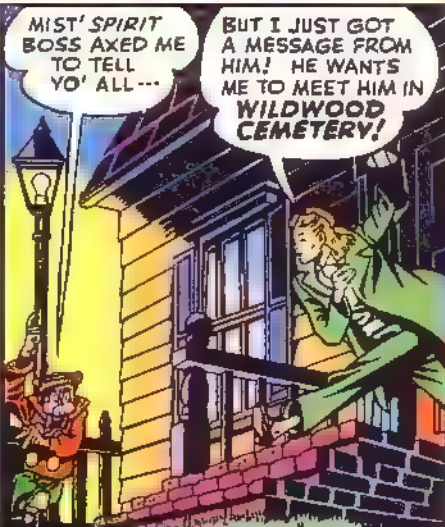
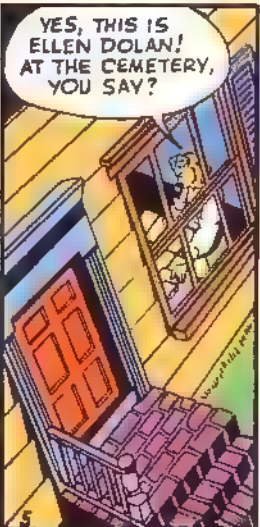
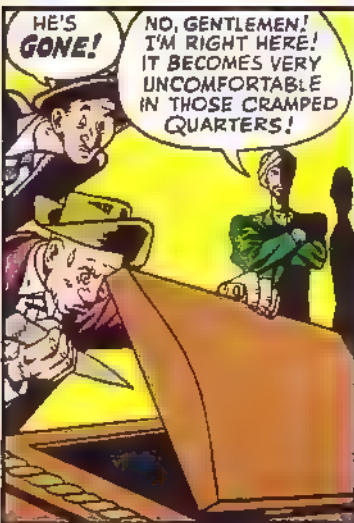
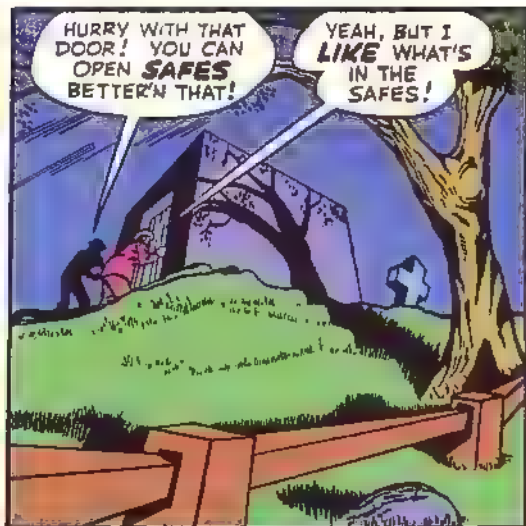
WE CAN'T  
ARGUE WITH  
A WALKIN'  
DEAD MAN!

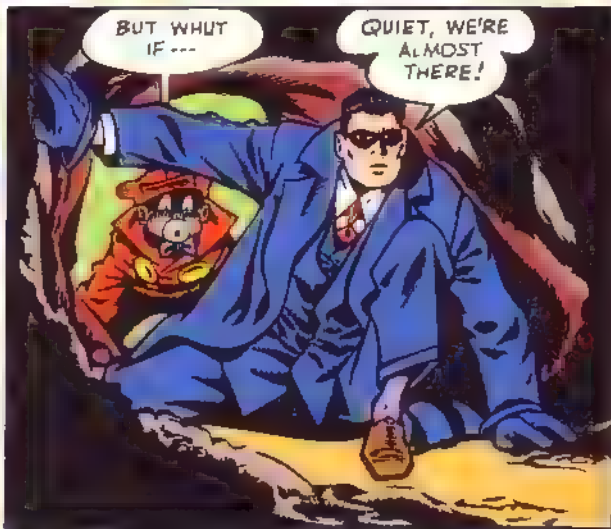
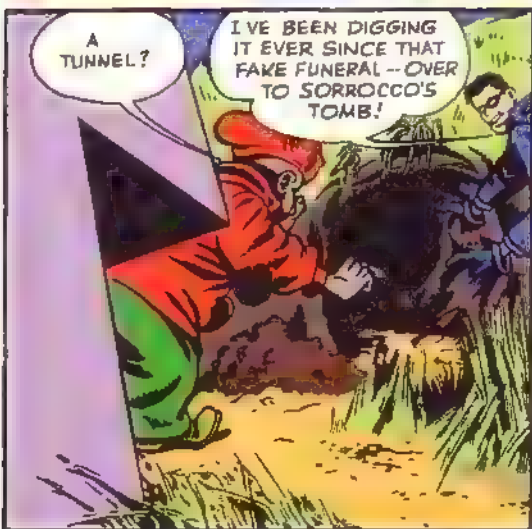
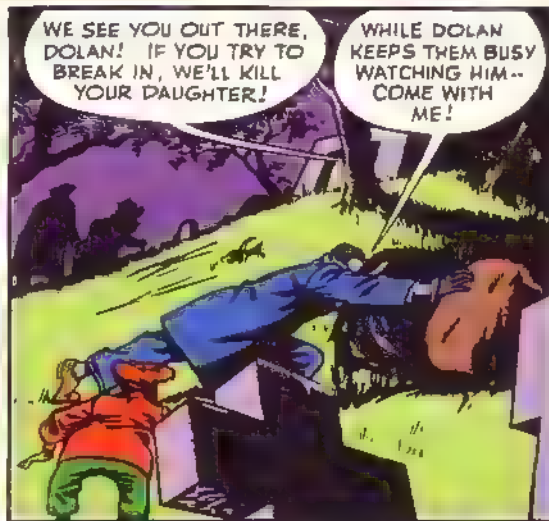


LOOK AT WHAT I  
GOT FROM THE  
LIBRARY! MAYBE  
IT'LL TELL US  
HOW TO FIGHT  
HIM!

IF HE WAS  
ALIVE, WE COULD  
SLUG HIM! DEAD  
MEN GIVE ME  
THE CREEPS!









WE'VE GOT DOLAN  
WHERE WE WANT HIM...  
...HEY!

\*\*\*@!!  
SHOOT THE GIRL!  
-- QUICK!

TOO LATE, SORROCCO!  
HE'S OUT OF THIS  
WORLD!

WHAT'S THAT  
RUMPUS IN  
THERE?

YO' ALL HAVE HEARD DAT  
RUMPUS BEFO', MIST' DOLAN!  
MIST' SPIRIT BOSS IS IN  
NYAH, 'CLEANIN' HOUSE!

NO, YA DON'T!  
WE GOT YA  
COVERED!

WHERE'S  
SORROCCO?

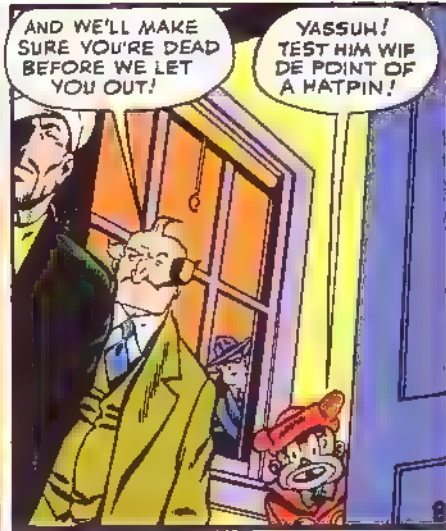
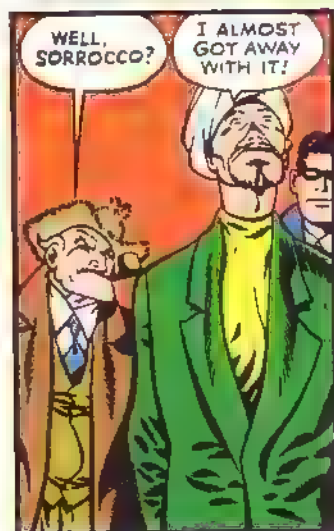
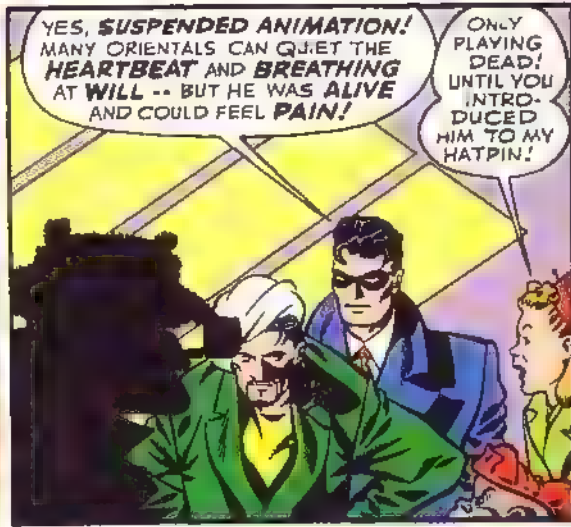
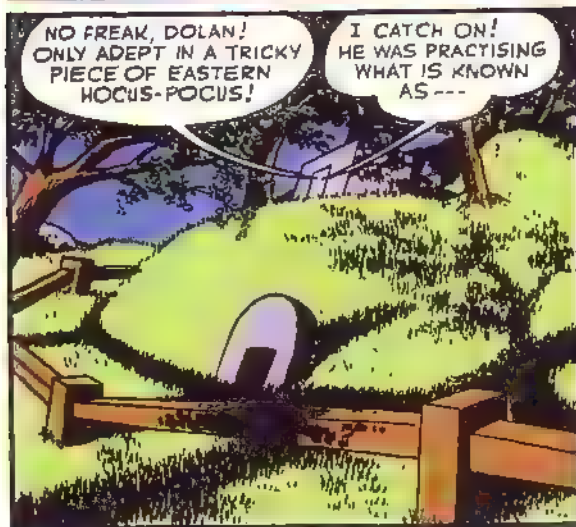
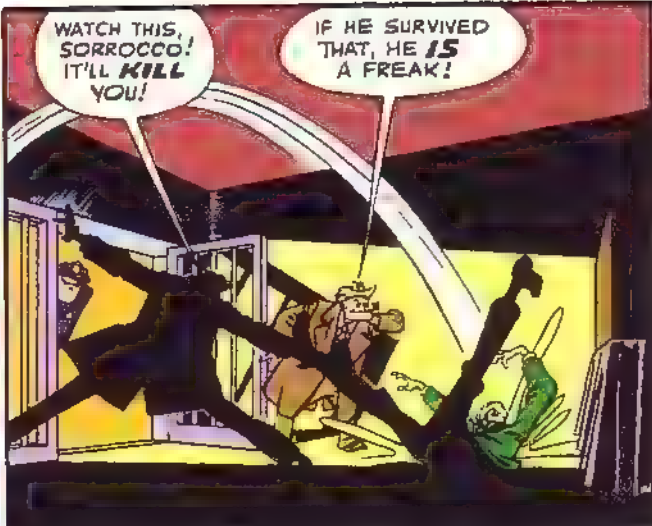
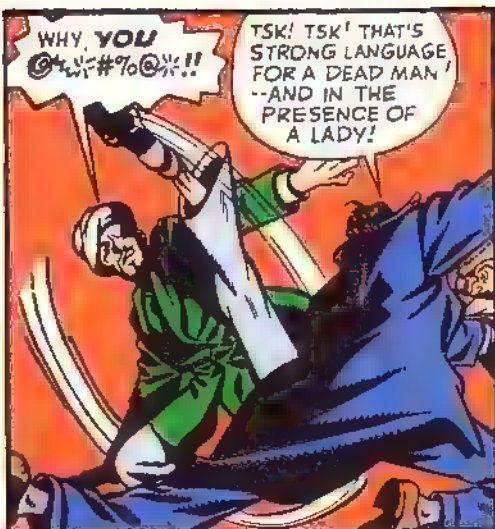
WHAT THE ...?!!  
SO HE WAS REALLY  
DEAD ALL THE  
TIME!

HE  
WAS ALIVE  
ONLY A  
MOMENT  
AGO!

NONSENSE!  
HAVE YOU ALL  
GONE  
BERSERK?

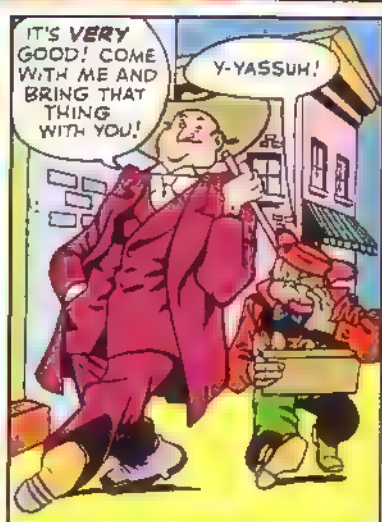
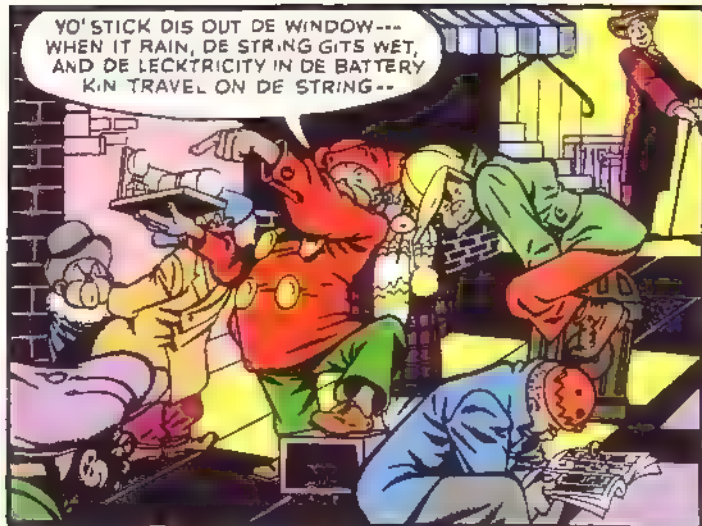
LEND  
ME YOUR  
HATPIN,  
ELLEN!

WHAHOOOO!!!











SEE, MIST' ROGOFF?  
WHEN AH WETS DE  
STRING, 'LECKTRICITY  
TRAVELS 'CROSS IT!

YES, IT  
BECOMES A  
**CONDUCTOR!**  
BUT IF MANY  
THOUSAND VOLTS  
WENT THROUGH  
A CONDUCTOR--

WHY, AH  
SPEC' DAT MUCH  
WOULD KILL A  
CONDUCTAH--  
OR A MOTAHMAN  
EVEN!

ENOUGH ELECTRICITY  
WOULD KILL MEN WHO NEVER  
EVEN HEARD OF THE  
TRANSPORTATION BUSINESS!  
COME HERE SON! LET'S  
FIGURE!

SUPPOSE SOMEBODY HAD  
TWO ELECTRIFIED GLOVES--WIRED  
TO A POWERFUL BATTERY IN  
AN INSIDE POCKET---

DE CIRCUIT HAS  
TO BE CLOSED! YO'  
NEEDS A STRING WET  
WIF WATAH!

**BLOOD--IN  
LIVING BODIES--**  
ALSO CONDUCTS  
ELECTRICITY!

DAT SOUNDS  
SKEERY!  
WHUT'S YO'  
BIZNESS,  
MIST' ROGOFF?

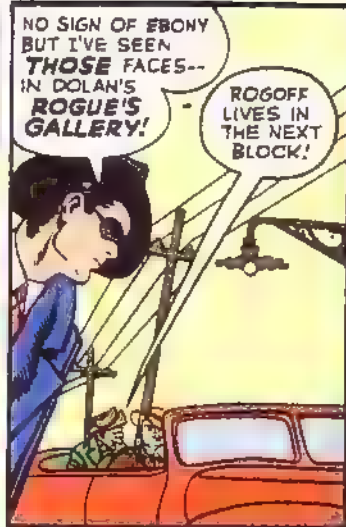
CALL ME A **CRIME ENGINEER!**  
THESE GLOVES CAN BE W. RED--  
AND YOUR BATTERY CAN BE  
CHANGED TO CARRY A  
**KILLING CHARGE--**

GOO'BYE!  
JEST  
REMEMBAHED  
A **'PRESSIN'**  
'GAGEMENT!

YOU'LL STAY HERE!  
HA-HA! I NEED A  
PROMISING YOUNG  
ASSISTANT!



YEAH I SEEN A KID LIKE THAT -- WALKIN' W.TH A SLICK DRESSED GUY --- THEY HAD A FUNNY-LOOKIN' GIMMICK AND THEY WENT THAT WAY!



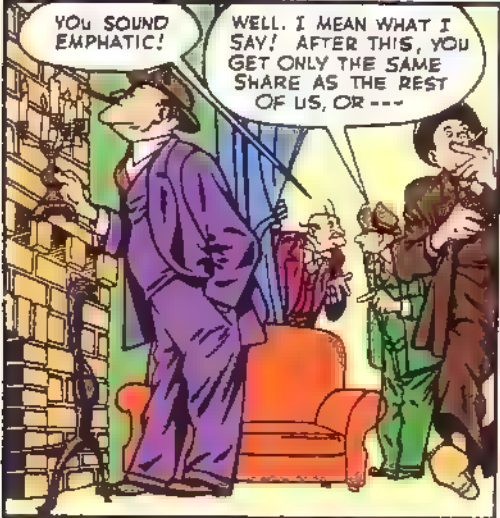
NO SIGN OF EBONY BUT I'VE SEEN **THOSE FACES--** IN DOLAN'S **ROGUE'S GALLERY!**

ROGOFF LIVES IN THE NEXT BLOCK!



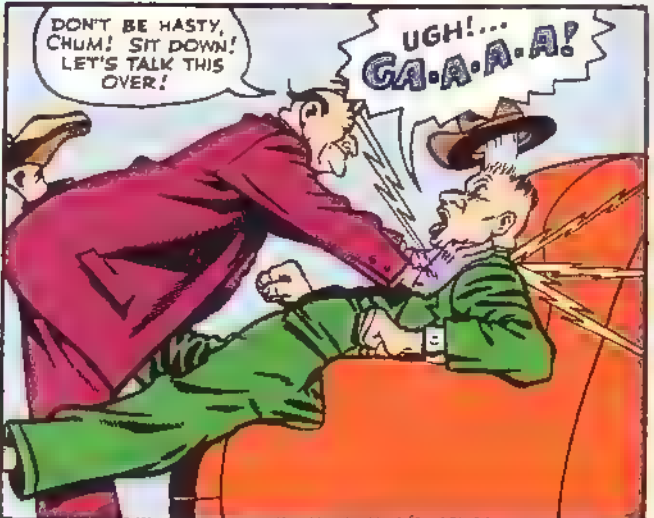
CALLING ON ME GENTLEMEN?

YEAH, ROGOFF! YOU PLAN CLEVER JOBS, BUT WE TAKE ALL THE CHANCES! SO WHY SHOULD YOU TAKE SO MUCH OF THE DOUGH?



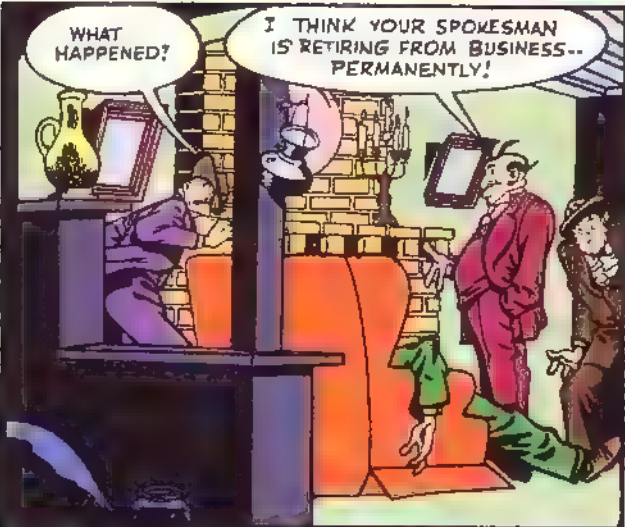
YOU SOUND EMPHATIC!

WELL, I MEAN WHAT I SAY! AFTER THIS, YOU GET ONLY THE SAME SHARE AS THE REST OF US, OR ---



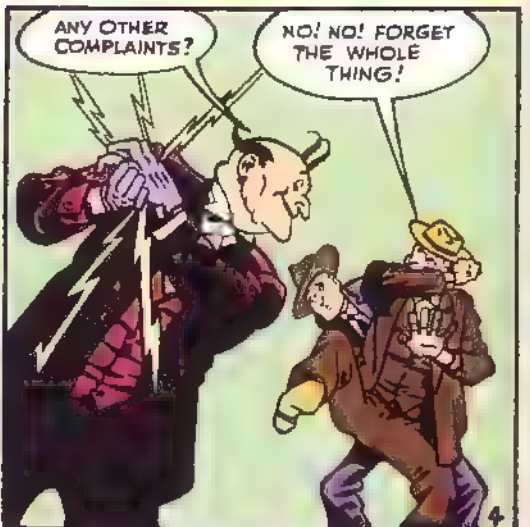
DON'T BE HASTY, CHUM! SIT DOWN! LET'S TALK THIS OVER!

UGH!... GA.A.A.A!



WHAT HAPPENED?

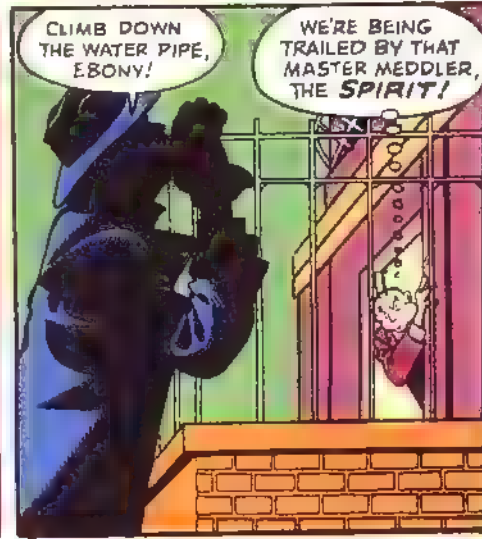
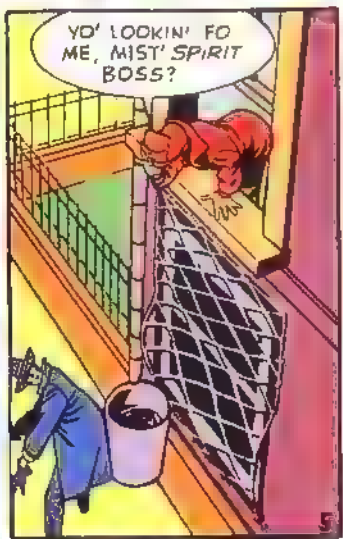
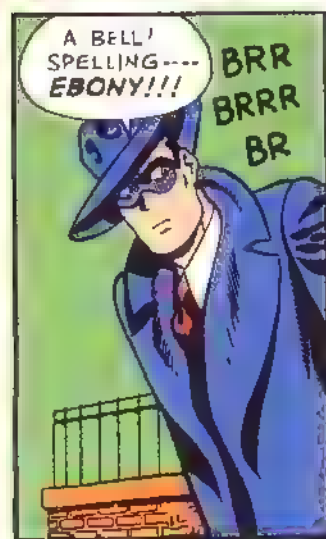
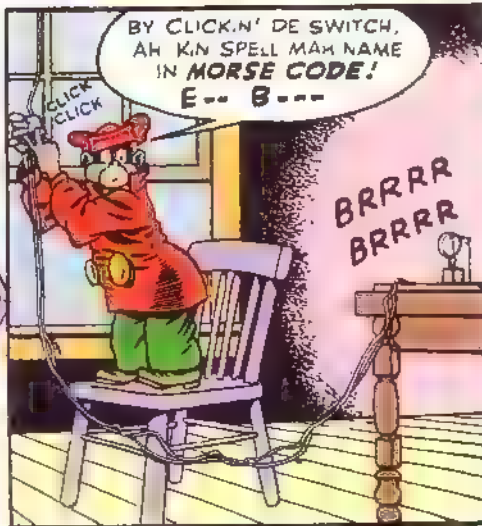
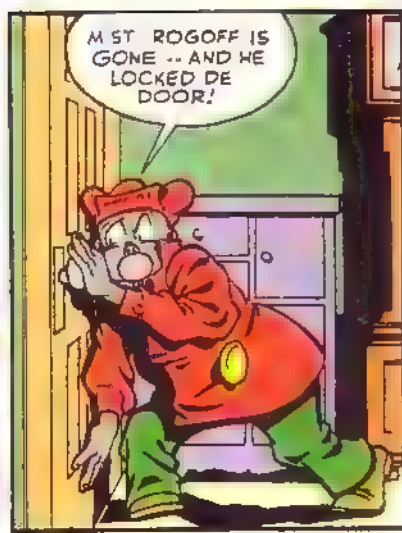
I THINK YOUR SPOKESMAN IS RETIRING FROM BUSINESS-- PERMANENTLY!

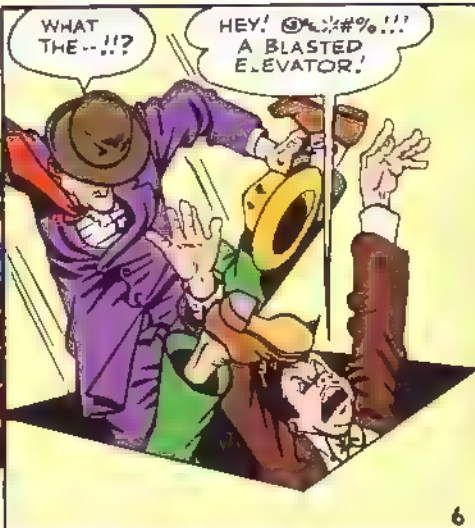
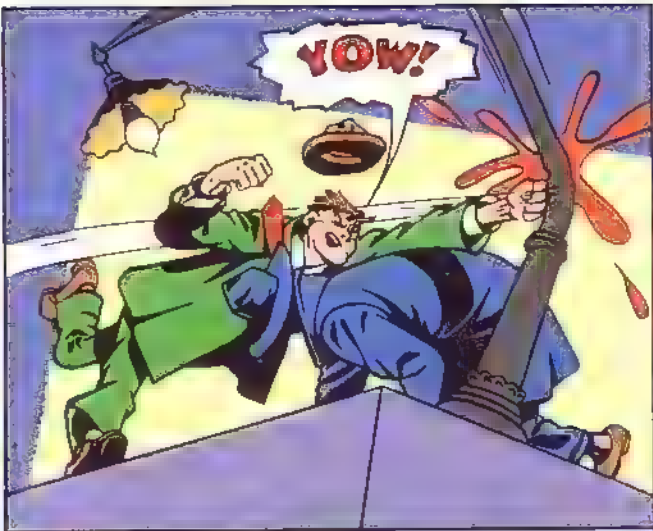
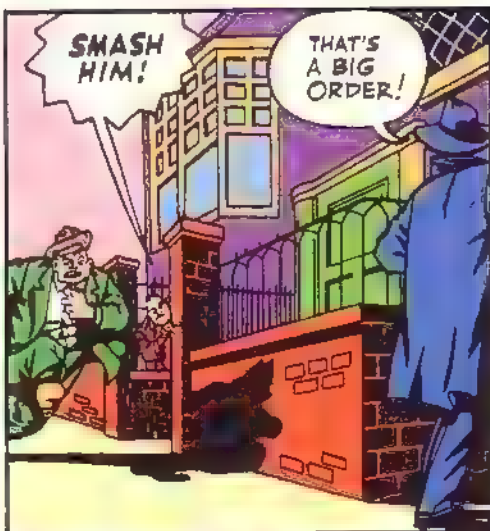


ANY OTHER COMPLAINTS?

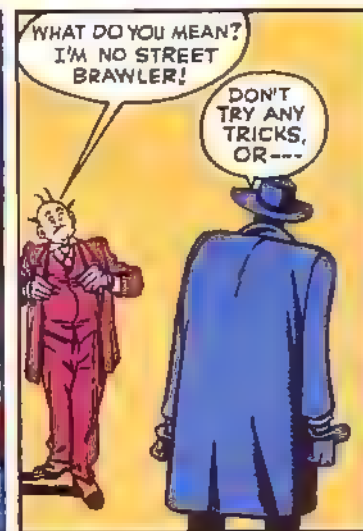
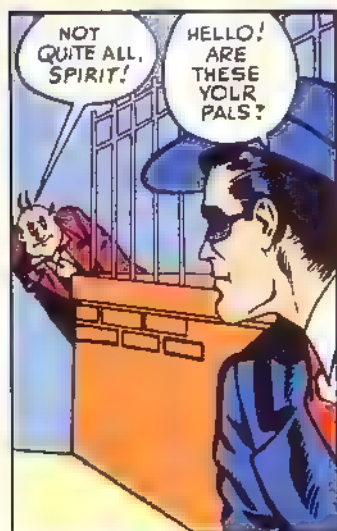
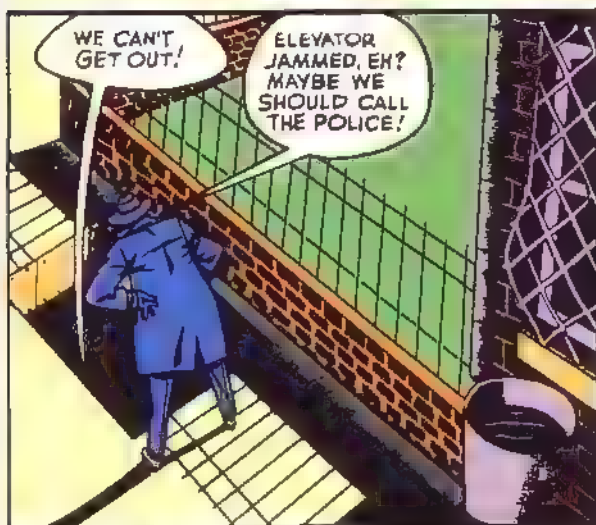
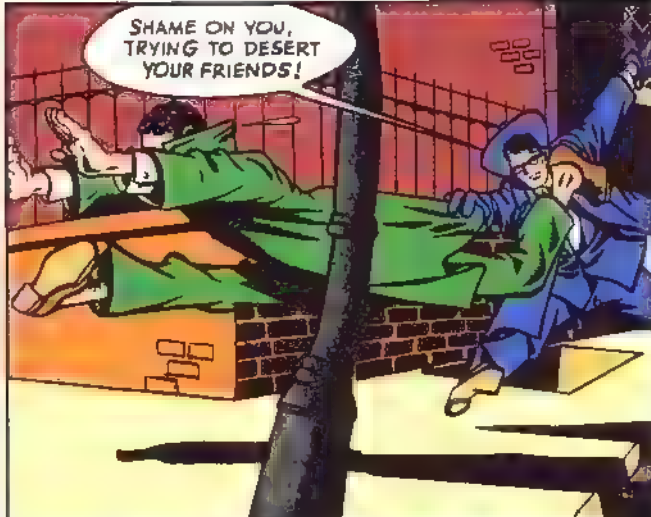
NO! NO! FORGET THE WHOLE THING!





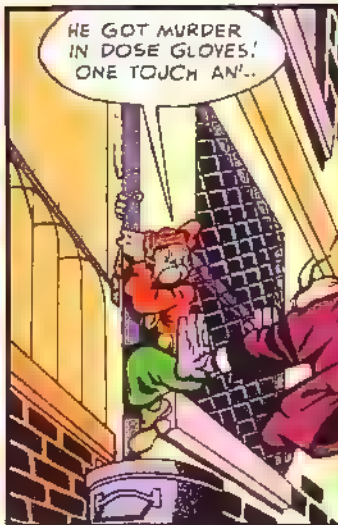








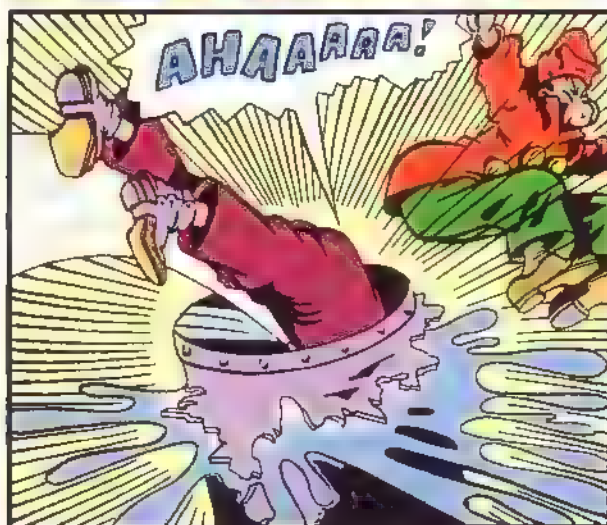
LOOK OUT, MIST' SPIRIT  
BOSS! HE'LL 'LEKTRIFY  
YOU!



HE GOT MURDER  
IN DOSE GLOVES!  
ONE TOUCH AN'...



YOU TATTL' NG  
LITTLE HYENA! YOU'LL  
DIE FOR THAT!



AHAAAAA!



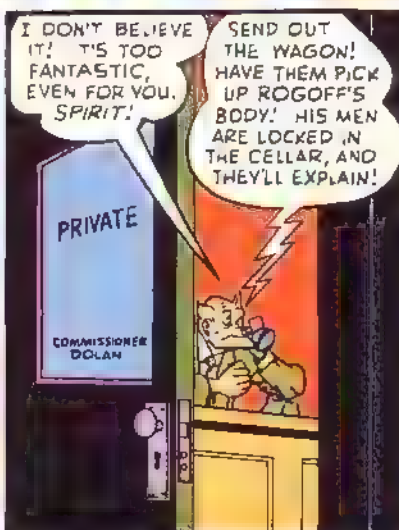
THE WATER  
KILLED HIM?  
DO YOU  
MEAN---

DON'T TOUCH HIS  
WET BODY..OR IT'LL  
GIT YOU TOO!



I SEE! A DEVICE FOR  
DEATH! THE GLOVES WERE  
ELECTRIFIED OUTSIDE - AND  
WHEN THE WATER SEEPED  
UNDER THEM IT CARR' ED  
THE CURRENT TO HIM!

WE CAN  
CALL DE  
P'LEECE  
AT DAT  
DRUG  
STO'!



I DON'T BELIEVE  
IT! T'S TOO  
FANTASTIC,  
EVEN FOR YOU,  
SPIRIT!

PRIVATE

COMMISSIONER  
DOLAN

SEND OUT  
THE WAGON!  
HAVE THEM PICK  
UP ROGOFF'S  
BODY! HIS MEN  
ARE LOCKED IN  
THE CELLAR, AND  
THEY'LL EXPLAIN!



PLANNING ANOTHER  
INVENTION,  
EBONY?

YASSUH!  
A NON-  
'LECTRIC  
ONE! AH'LL  
SELL YO' DE  
RIGHTS FO  
A SODA!



COMIC  
BOOK  
SECTION

THE VODOO OF DR. PEROO

April 30, 1944

ACTION  
Mystery  
ADVENTURE



MURKUM ALLEY -- CENTRAL CITY'S MOST  
SINISTER SPOT -- AND A STRANGELY  
FURNISHED PARLOR ...

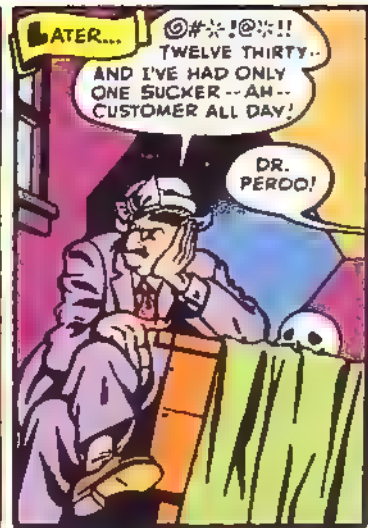
DR. PEROO! THEY  
SAY YOU CLAIM  
STRANGE POWERS!  
THAT YOU CAN EVEN  
MAKE LOVE GROW  
IN A COLD  
HEART!

LOVE  
CHARMS  
COST FIVE  
DOLLARS  
IN ADVANCE!



POUR IT IN YOUR SWEETHEART'S COFFEE! IT WILL MAKE HIM MAD ABOUT YOU!

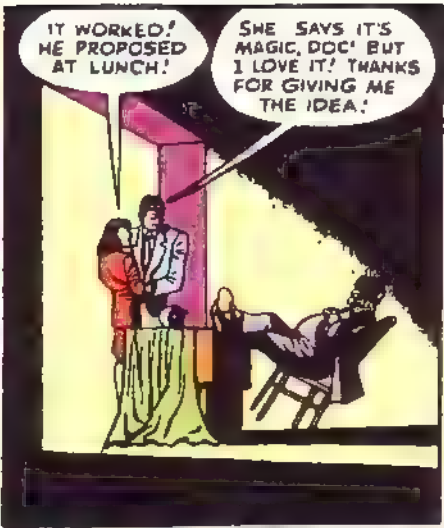
I WILL-- WHEN WE EAT LUNCH TOGETHER AT NOON!



LATER...

!@#\*!@#\*!! TWELVE THIRTY-- AND I'VE HAD ONLY ONE SUCKER--AH-- CUSTOMER ALL DAY!

DR. PERDOO!



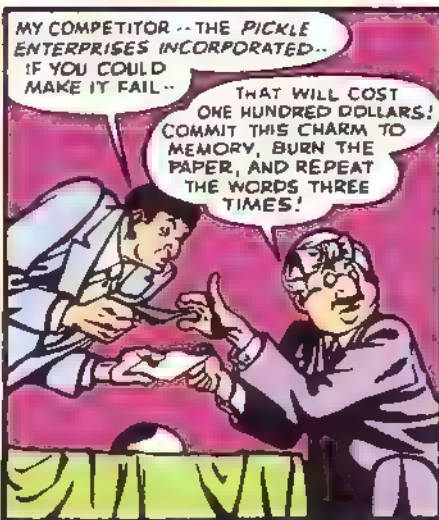
IT WORKED! HE PROPOSED AT LUNCH!

SHE SAYS IT'S MAGIC, DOC! BUT I LOVE IT! THANKS FOR GIVING ME THE IDEA!



WAIT OUTSIDE! I'VE GOT ANOTHER JOB FOR THE DOC!

YES?



MY COMPETITOR--THE PICKLE ENTERPRISES INCORPORATED-- IF YOU COULD MAKE IT FAIL--

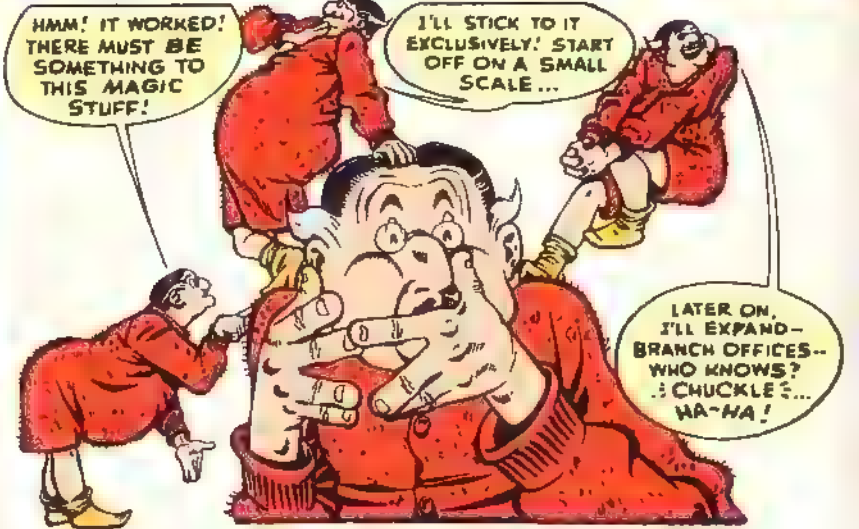
THAT WILL COST ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS! COMMIT THIS CHARM TO MEMORY, BURN THE PAPER, AND REPEAT THE WORDS THREE TIMES!



HOW WELL I SLEPT! BUSINESS IS LOOKING UP-- \$105 FOR TWO PIECES OF CLEVER FAKING!... AH THE MORNING PAPER!



WHY--WHY--

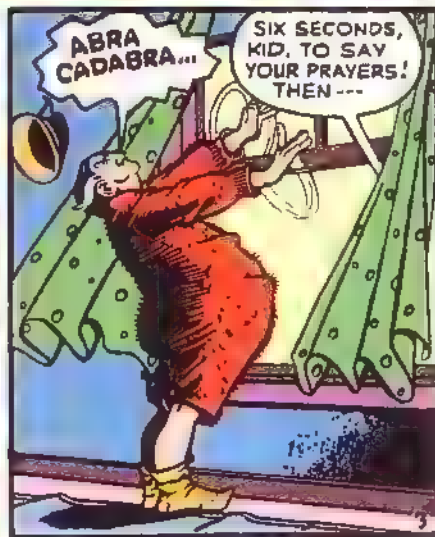
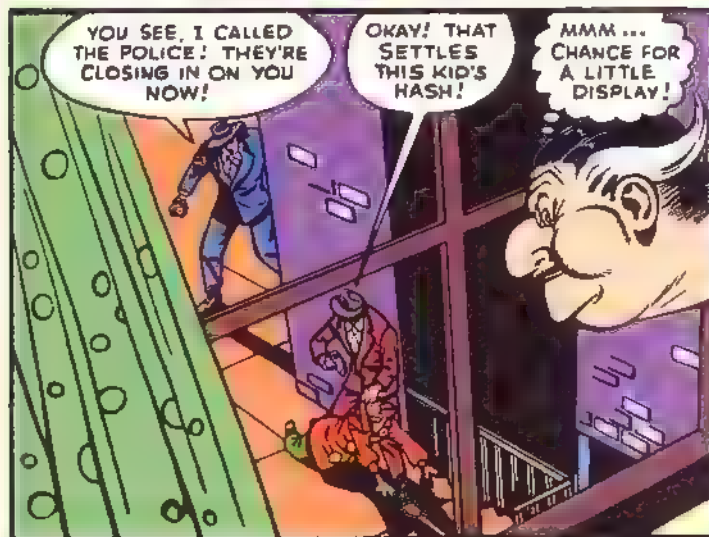
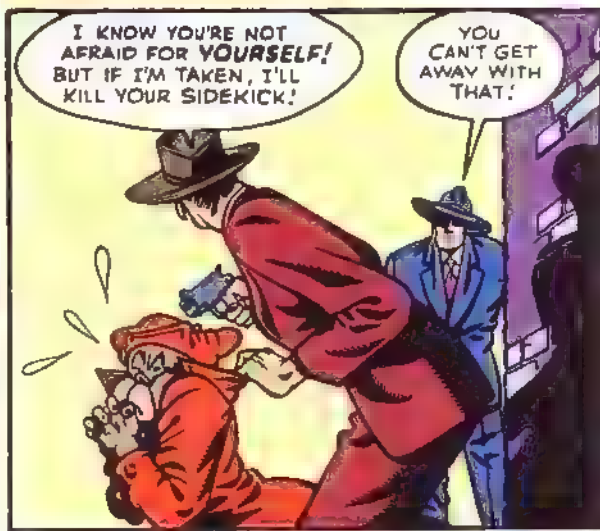
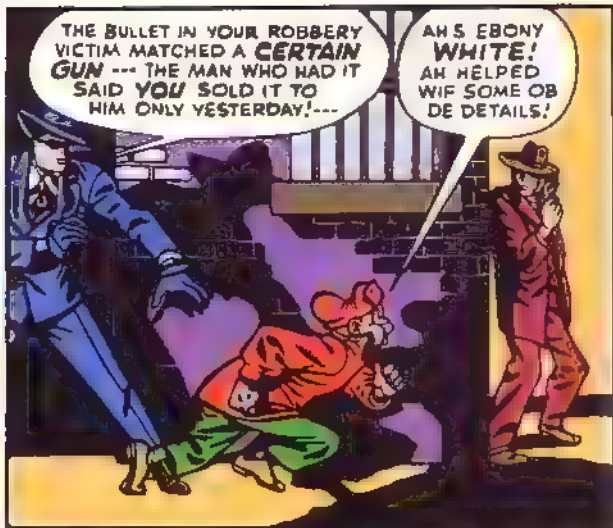


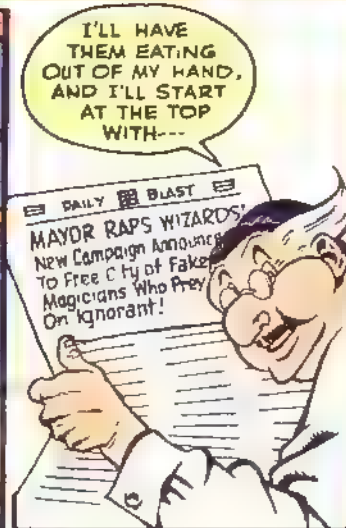
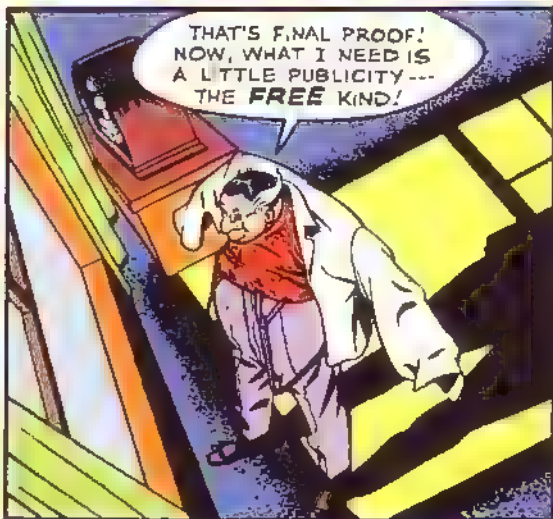
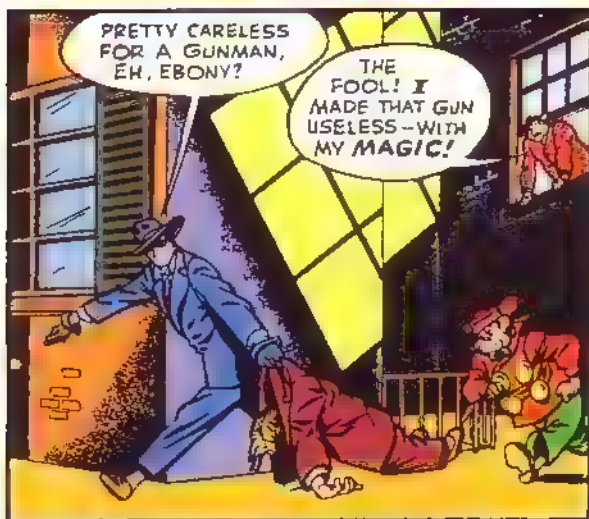
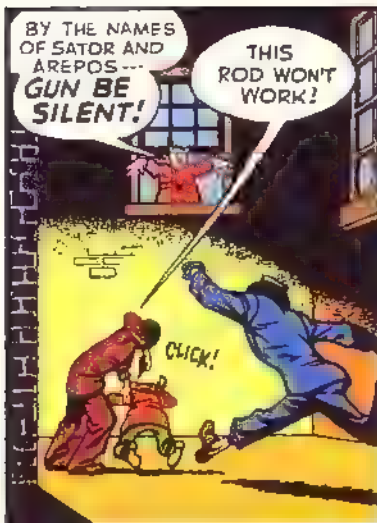
HMM! IT WORKED! THERE MUST BE SOMETHING TO THIS MAGIC STUFF!

I'LL STICK TO IT EXCLUSIVELY! START OFF ON A SMALL SCALE...

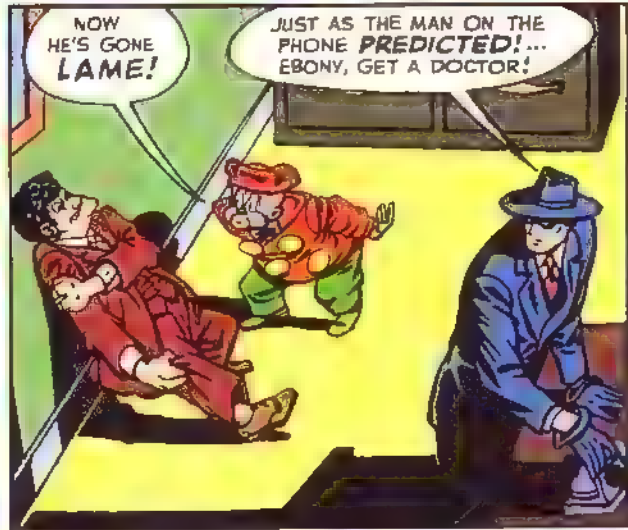
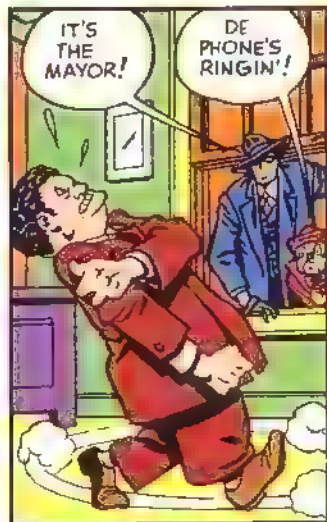
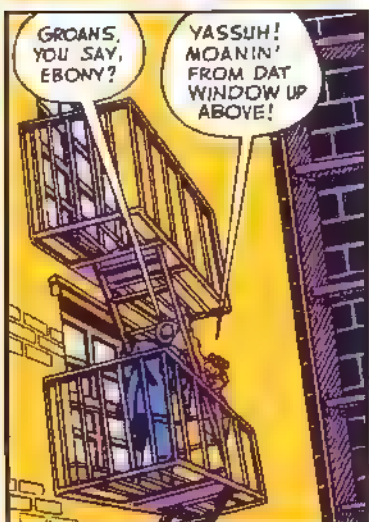
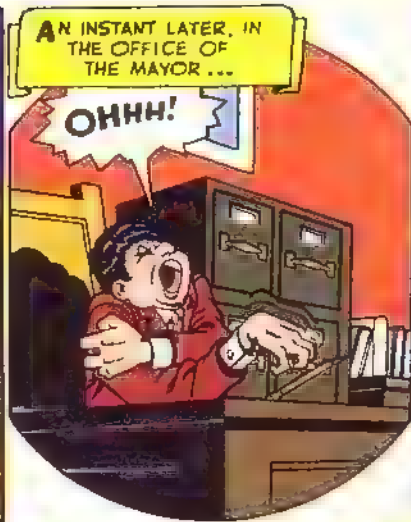
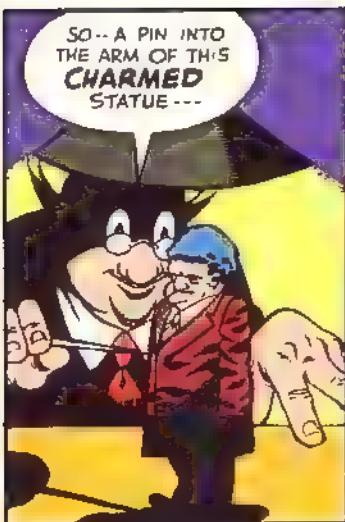
LATER ON, I'LL EXPAND-- BRANCH OFFICES-- WHO KNOWS? CHUCKLE... HA-HA!

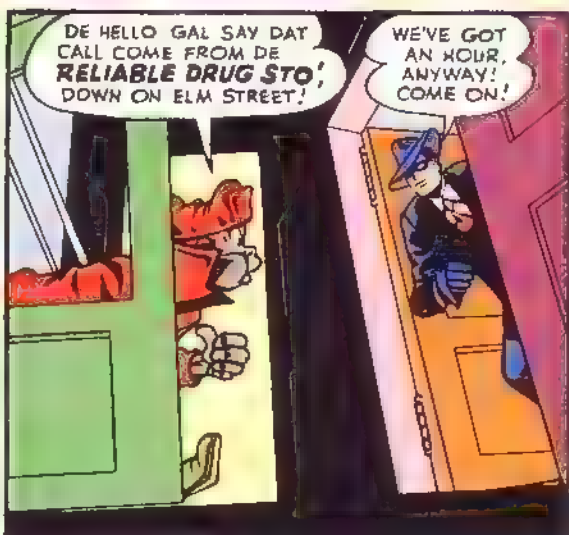
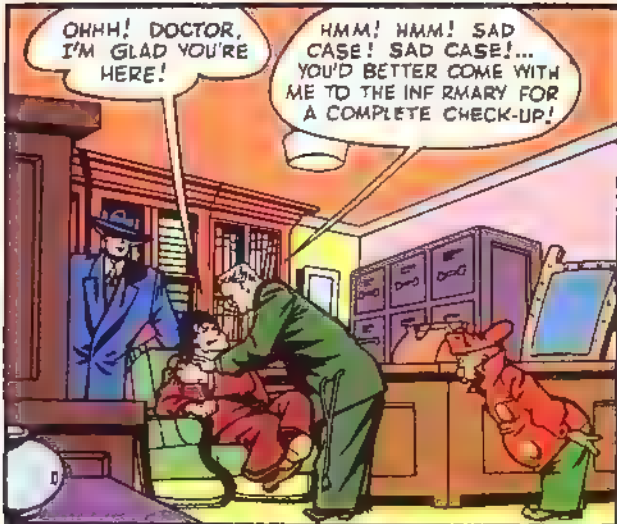




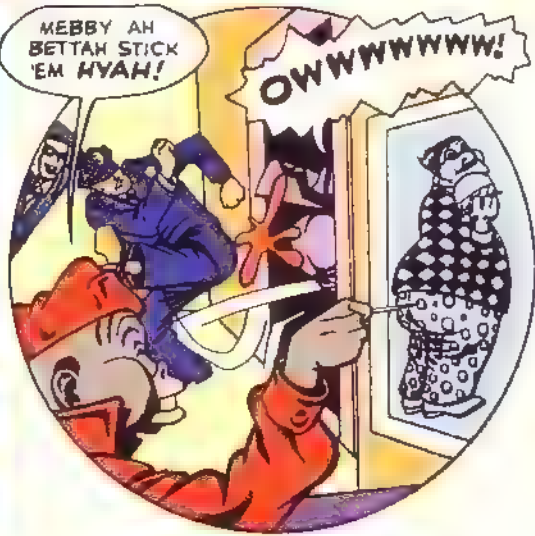
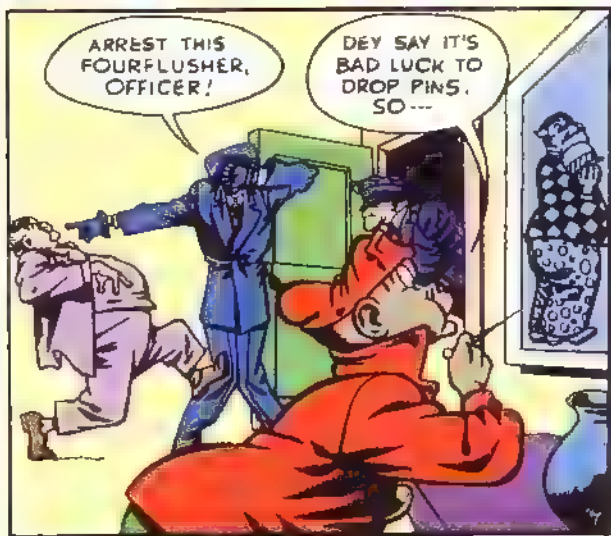
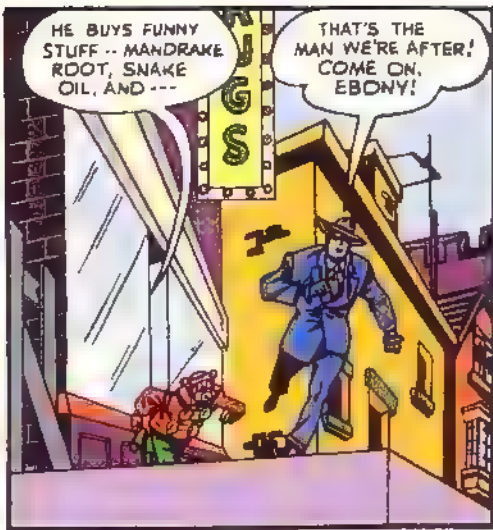


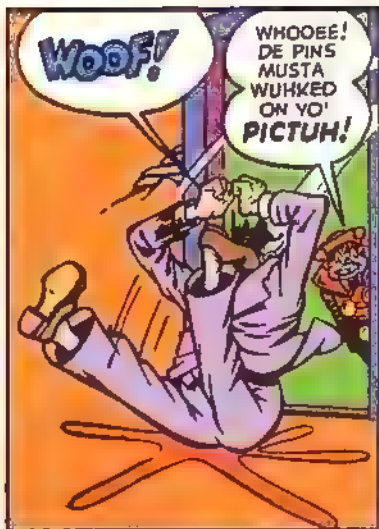








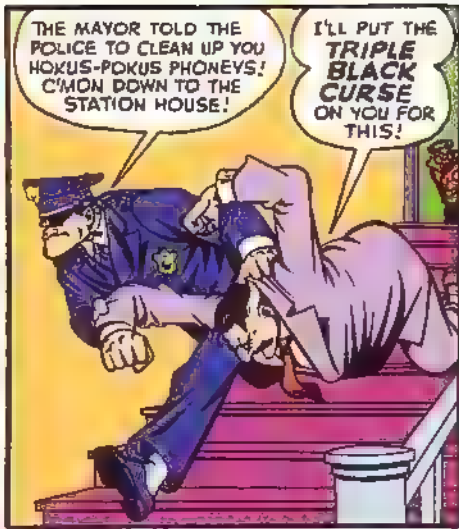




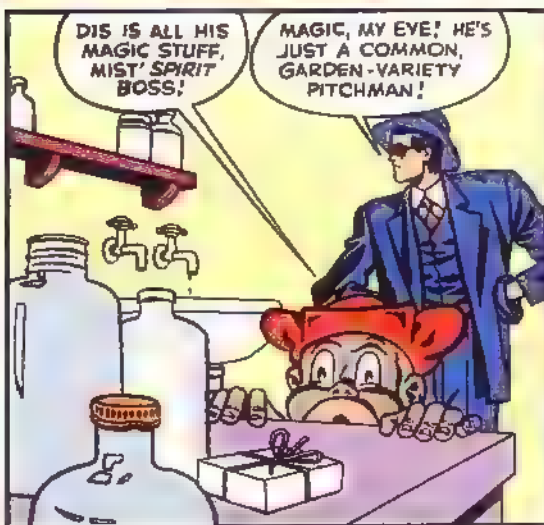
WHOOEE!  
DE PINS  
MUSTA  
WUHKED  
ON YO'  
**PICTUH!**



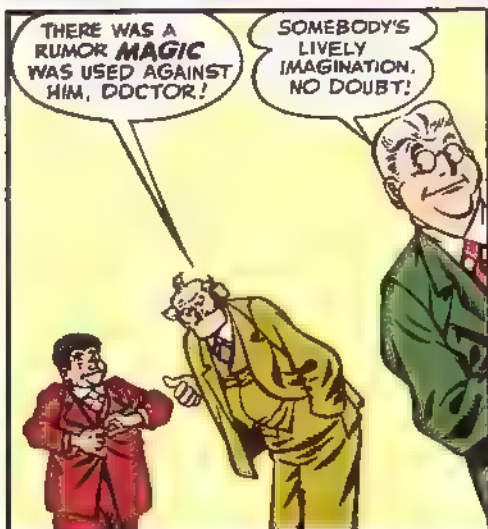
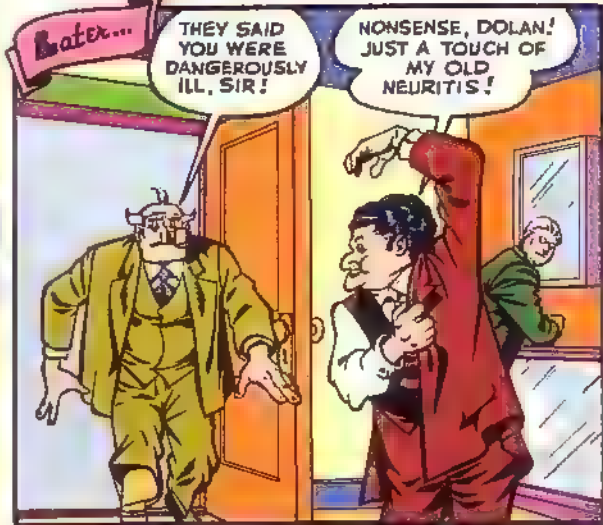
MAGIC,  
IS IT?



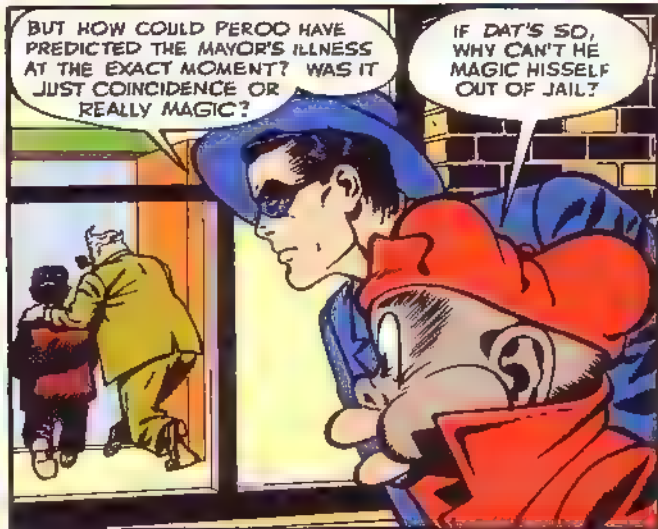
I'LL PUT THE  
**TRIPLE  
BLACK  
CURSE**  
ON YOU FOR  
THIS!



MAGIC, MY EYE! HE'S  
JUST A COMMON,  
GARDEN-VARIETY  
PITCHMAN!

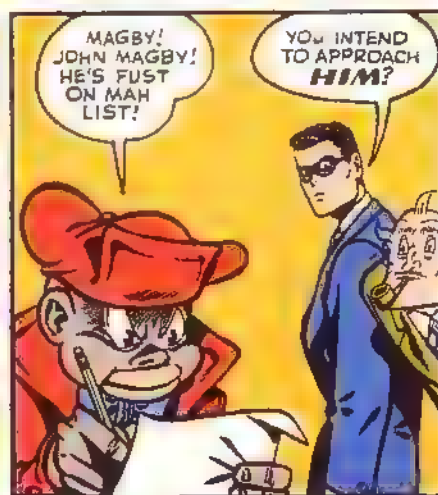
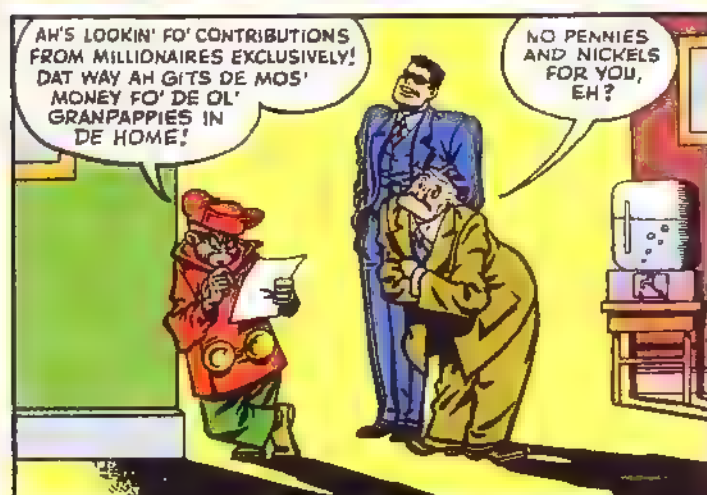
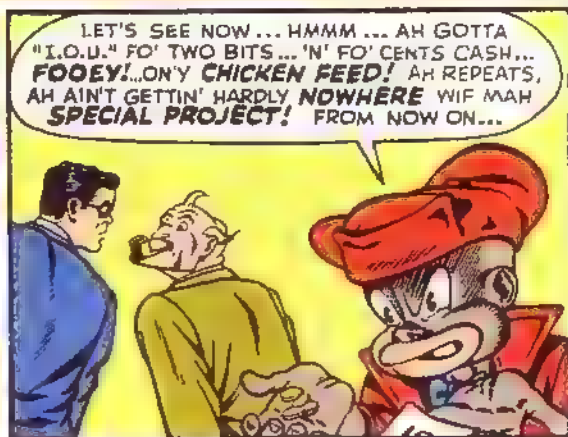
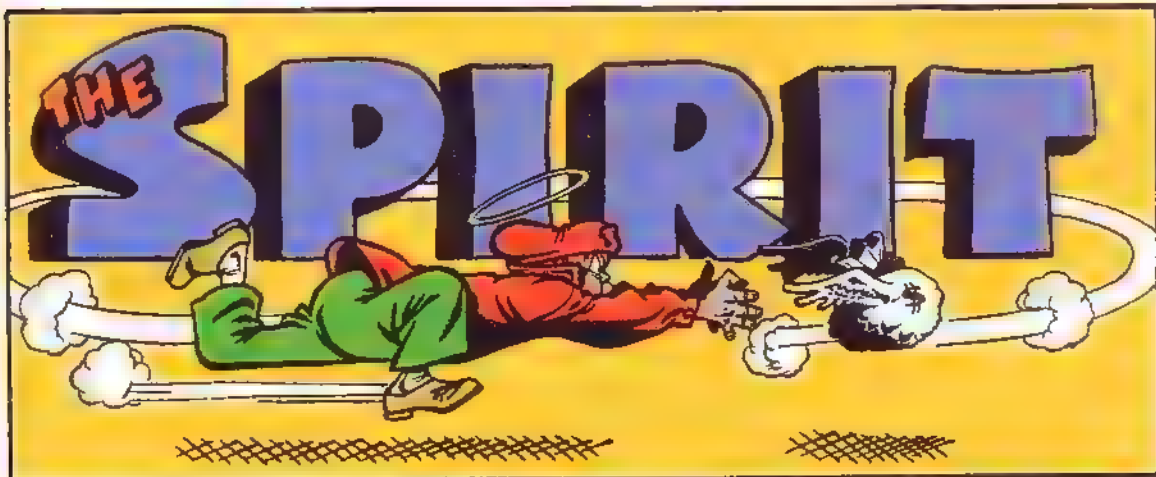


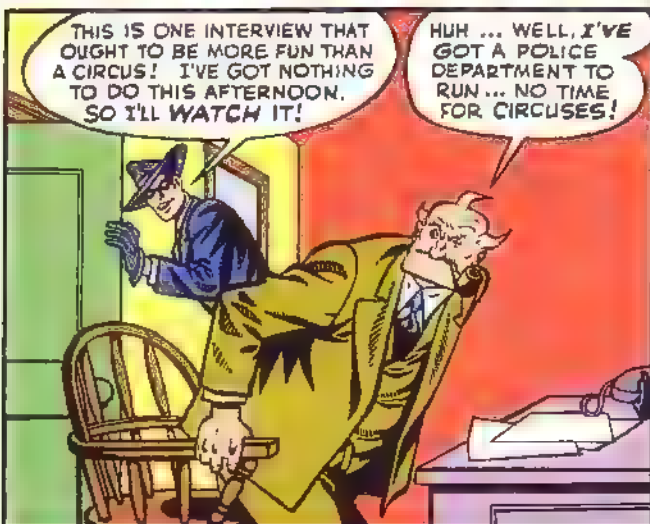
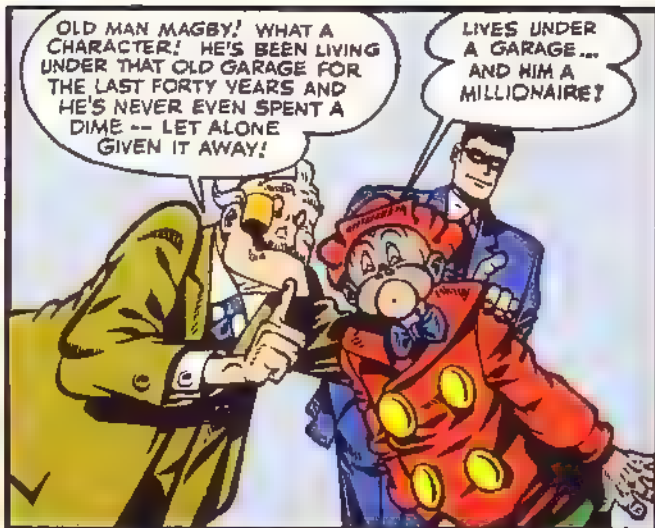
SOMEBODY'S  
LIVELY  
IMAGINATION.  
NO DOUBT!



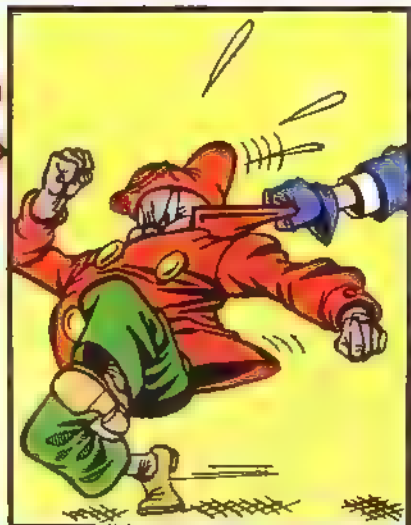
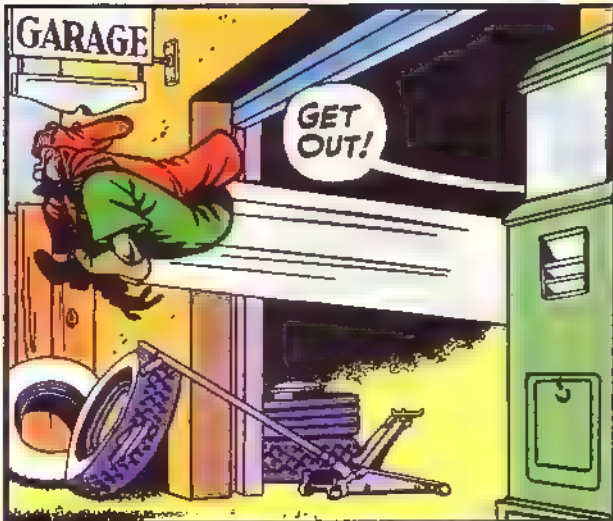
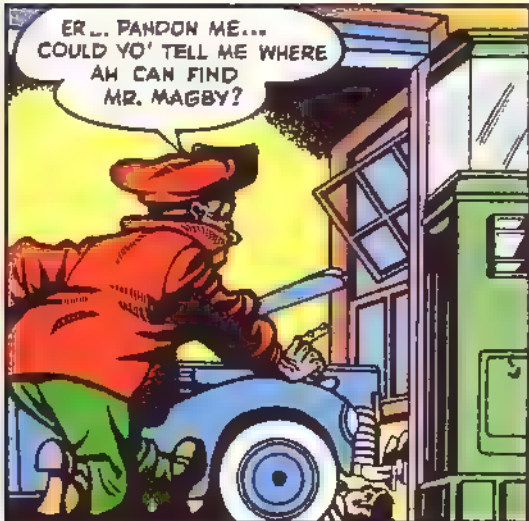
IF DAT'S SO,  
WHY CAN'T HE  
MAGIC HISSELF  
OUT OF JAIL?

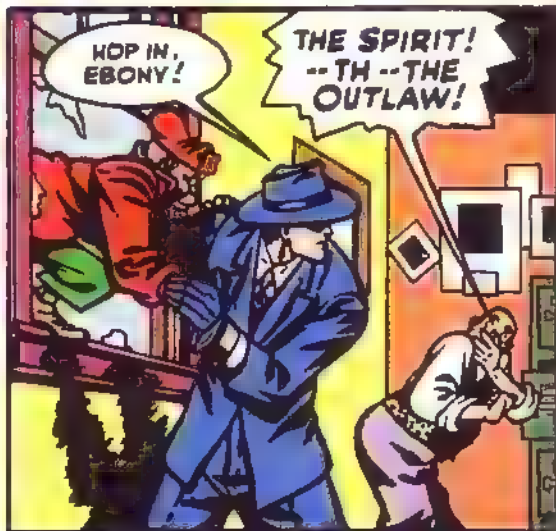
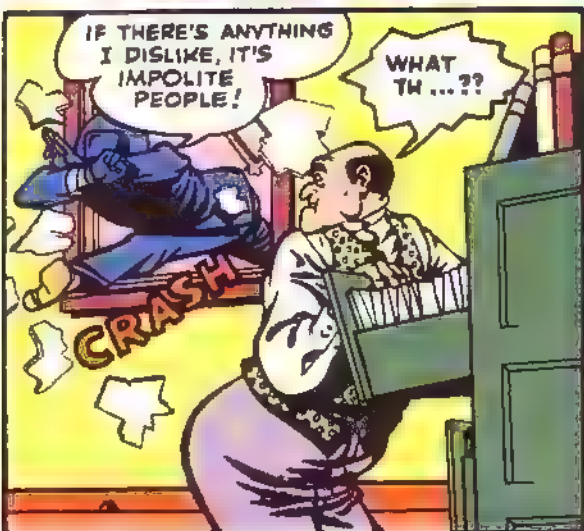
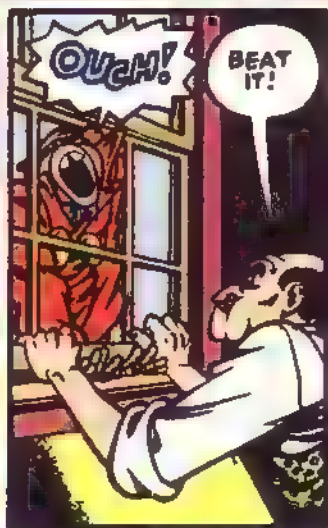
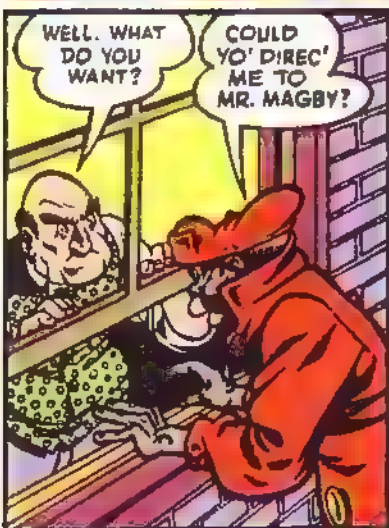
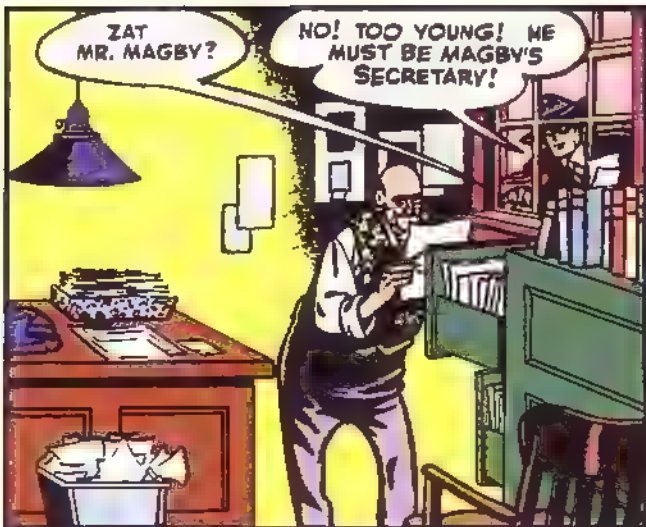




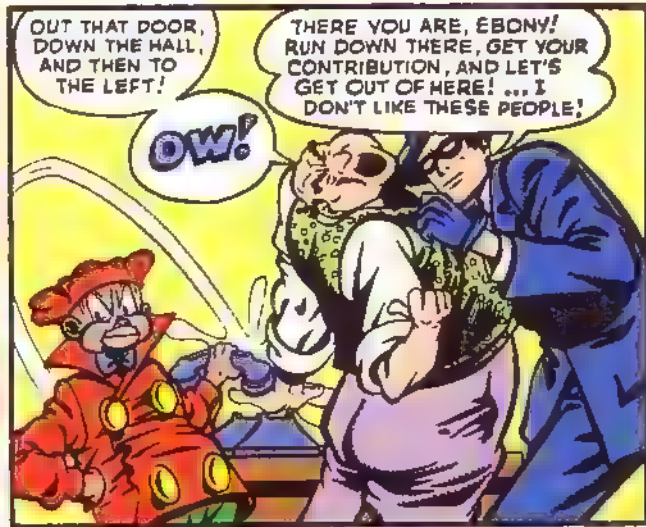


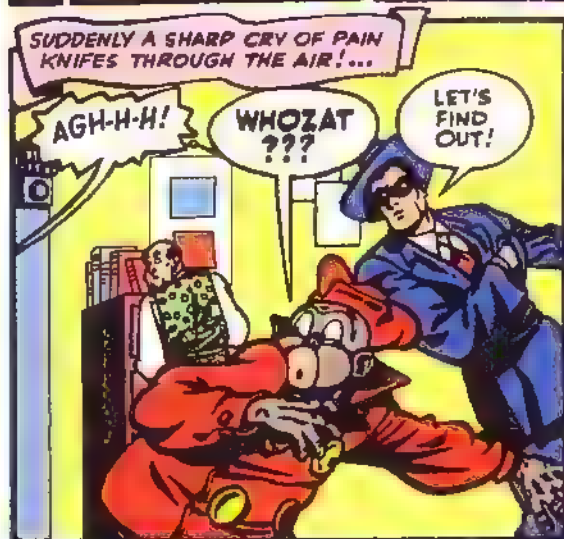
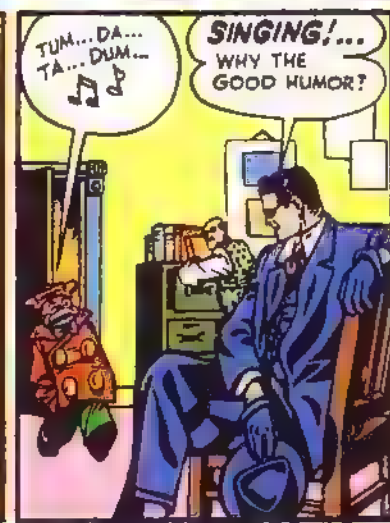
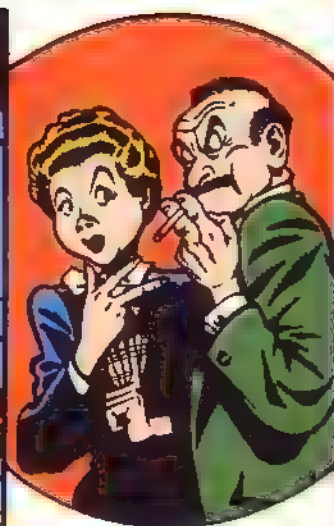
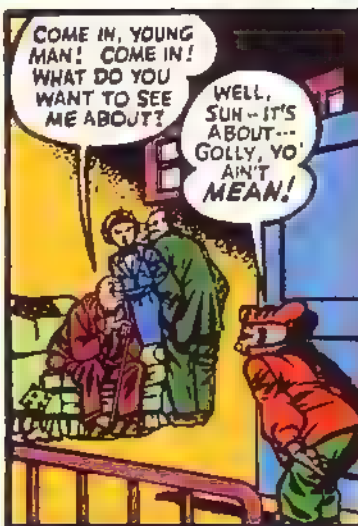




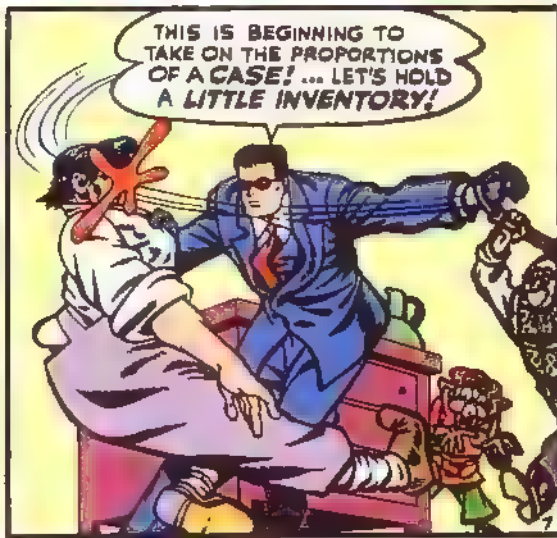
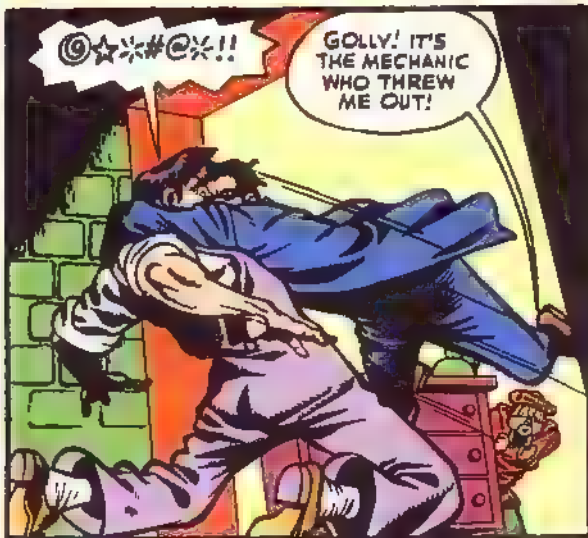
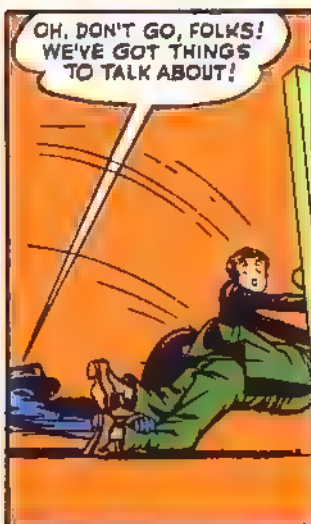


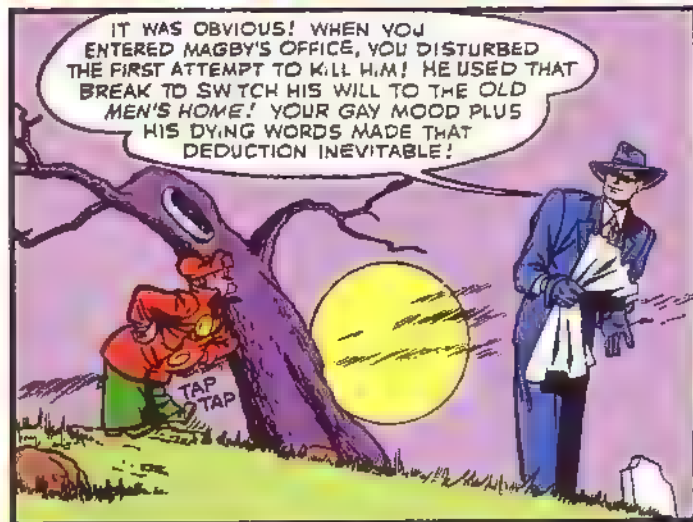
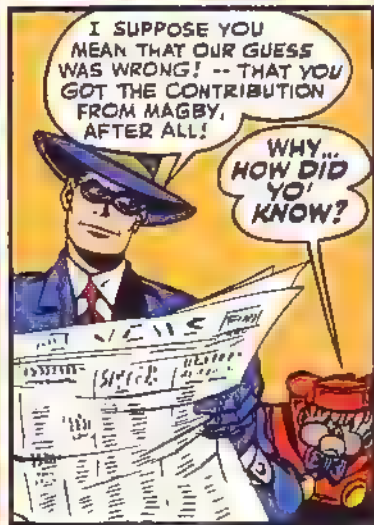
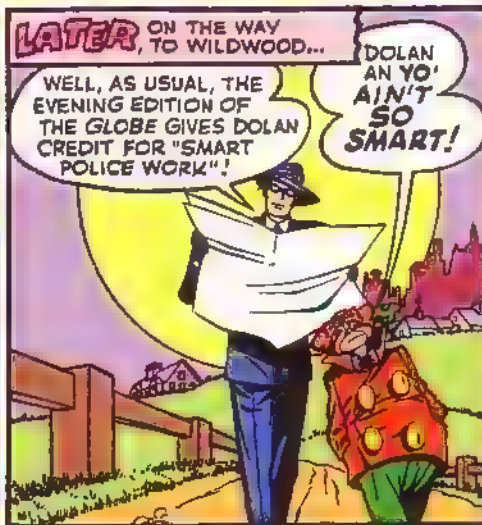
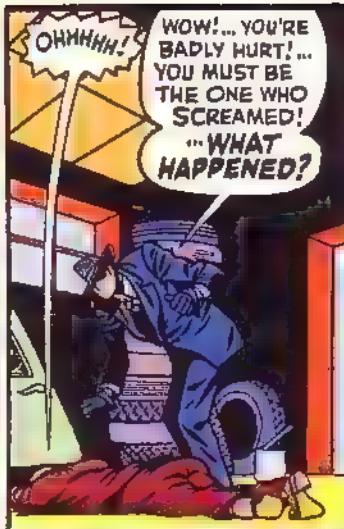














COMIC  
BOOK  
SECTION

FIFI McCOY

May 14, 1944

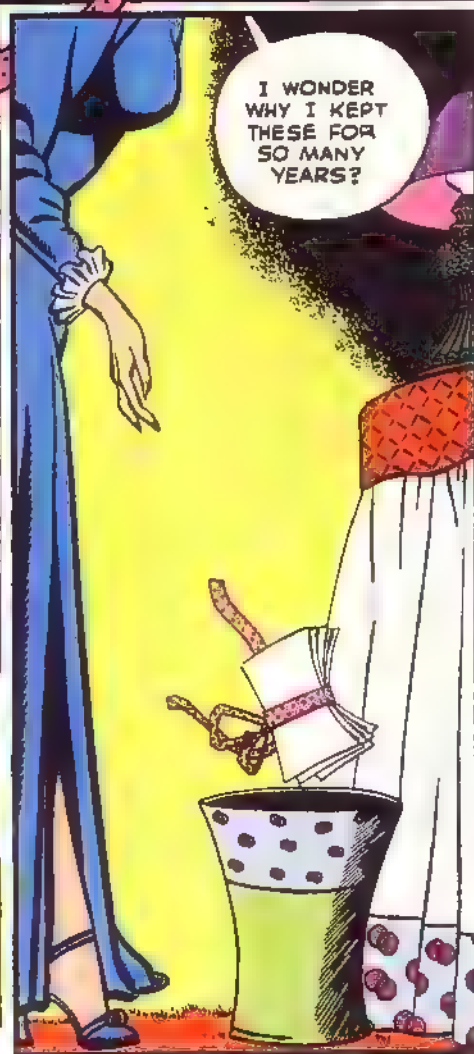
ACTION  
Mystery  
ADVENTURE

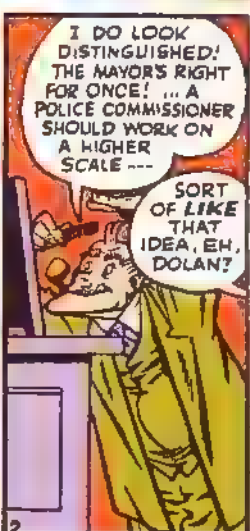
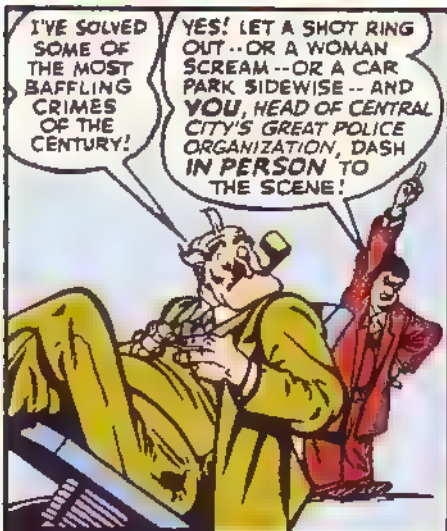
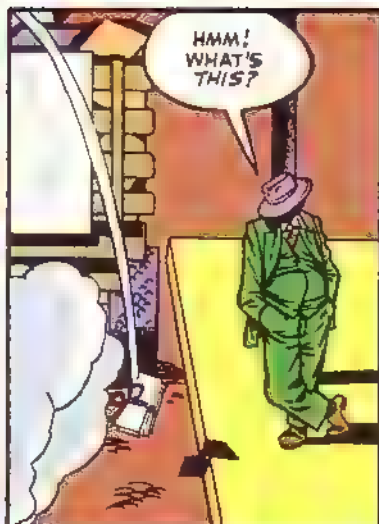
# The SPIRIT

by  
Will Eisner

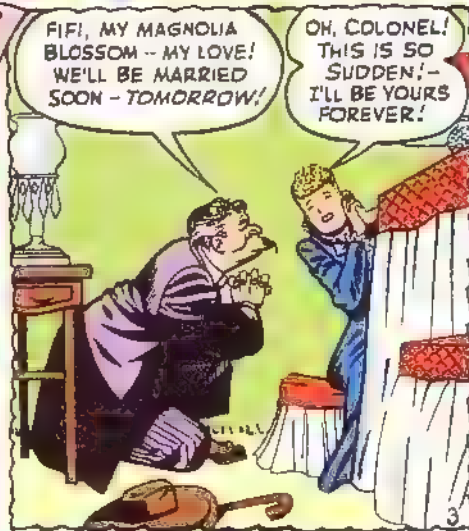
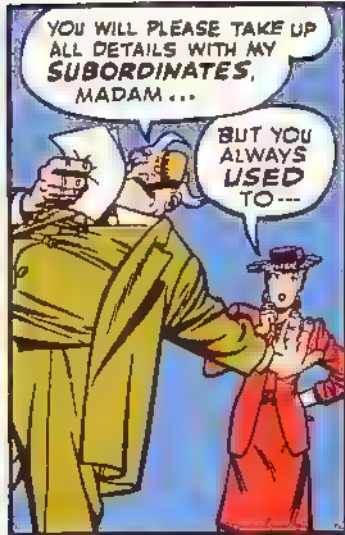
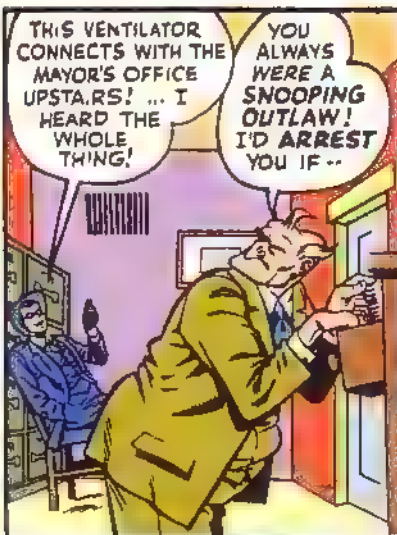


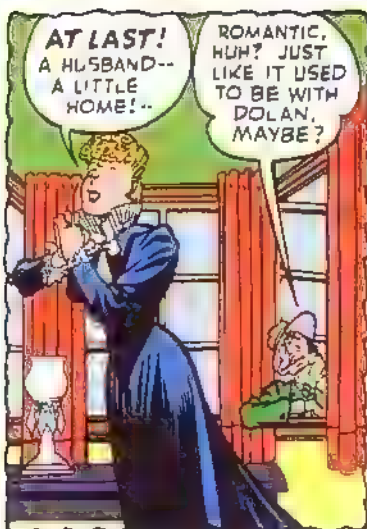
A bundle of love-letters!  
What memories...what mysteries!...  
What **TROUBLES!!!!**





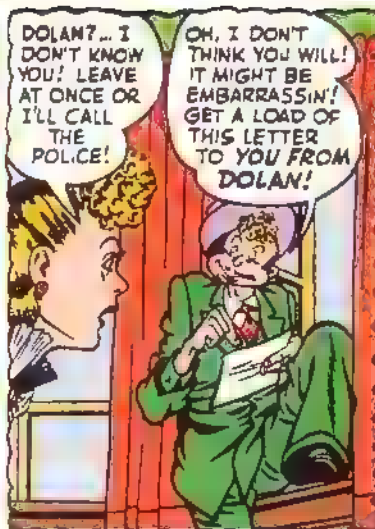






AT LAST!  
A HUSBAND--  
A LITTLE  
HOME!--

ROMANTIC,  
HUH? JUST  
LIKE IT USED  
TO BE WITH  
DOLAN,  
MAYBE?



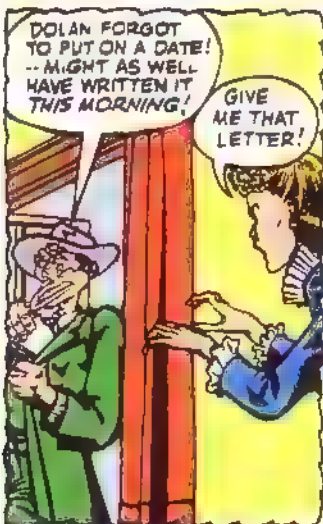
DOLAN?... I  
DON'T KNOW  
YOU! LEAVE  
AT ONCE OR  
I'LL CALL  
THE  
POLICE!

OH, I DON'T  
THINK YOU WILL!  
IT MIGHT BE  
EMBARRASSIN'  
GET A LOAD OF  
THIS LETTER  
TO YOU FROM  
DOLAN!



"FIFI, MY DARLING -- I'VE JUST LEFT  
YOUR SIDE, BUT I CANNOT LIVE  
UNTIL I SEE YOU AGAIN  
AND HEAR YOUR  
WORDS OF LOVE --"

THAT  
WAS WRITTEN  
YEARS AGO  
-- WHEN WE  
WERE IN  
HIGH SCHOOL!



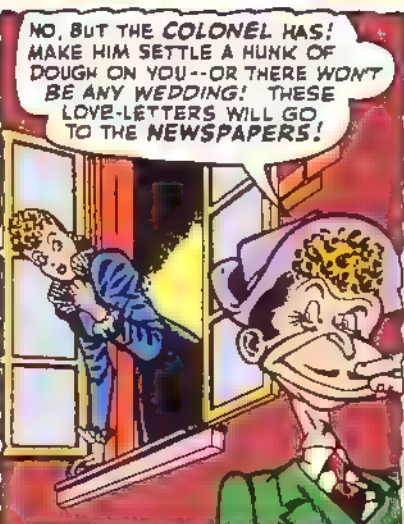
DOLAN FORGOT  
TO PUT ON A DATE!  
-- MIGHT AS WELL  
HAVE WRITTEN IT  
THIS MORNING!

GIVE  
ME THAT  
LETTER!

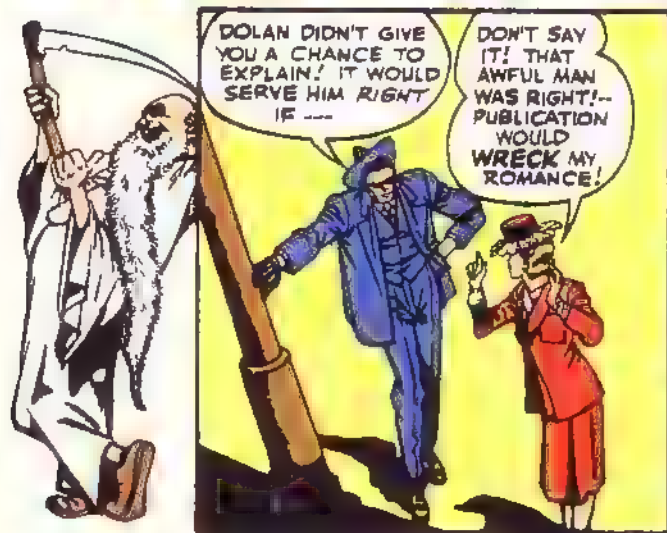


OH, BUT I GOT  
LOTS MORE--EVEN  
SWEETER! YOU  
CAN HAVE 'EM BACK  
FOR FIFTY  
GRAND!

FIFTY  
THOUSAND  
DOLLARS?!!  
I DON'T  
HAVE THAT  
MUCH  
MONEY!



NO, BUT THE COLONEL HAS!  
MAKE HIM SETTLE A HUNK OF  
DOUGH ON YOU--OR THERE WON'T  
BE ANY WEDDING! THESE  
LOVE-LETTERS WILL GO  
TO THE NEWSPAPERS!



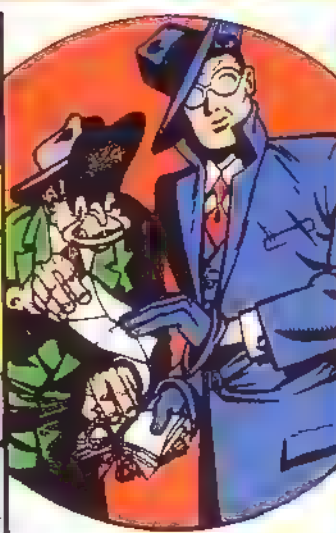
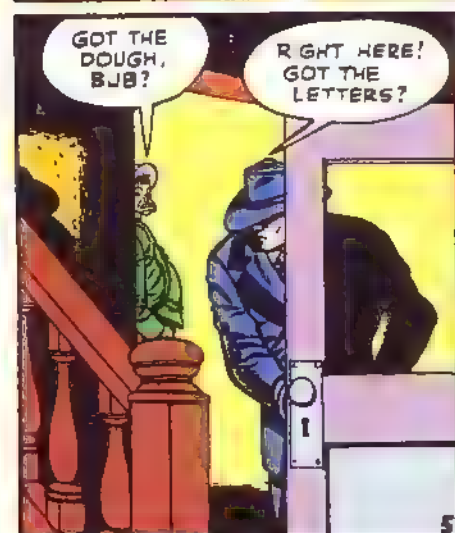
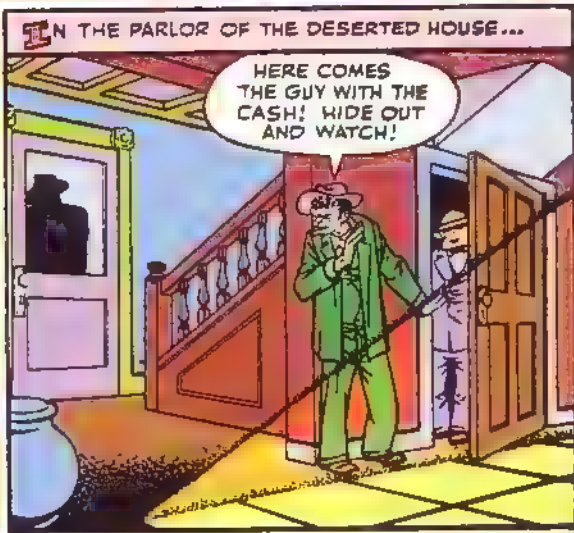
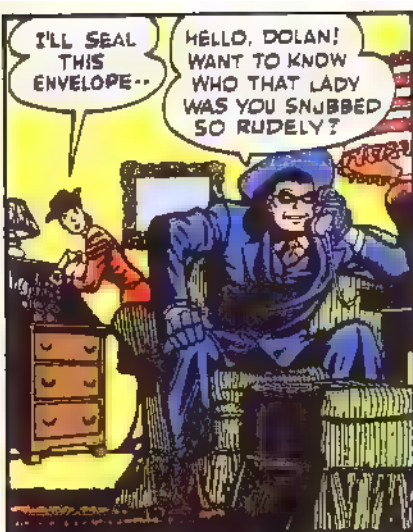
DOLAN DIDN'T GIVE  
YOU A CHANCE TO  
EXPLAIN! IT WOULD  
SERVE HIM RIGHT  
IF ---

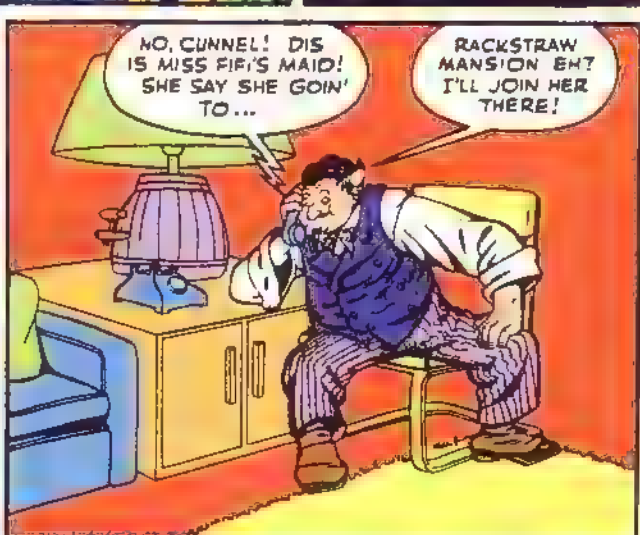
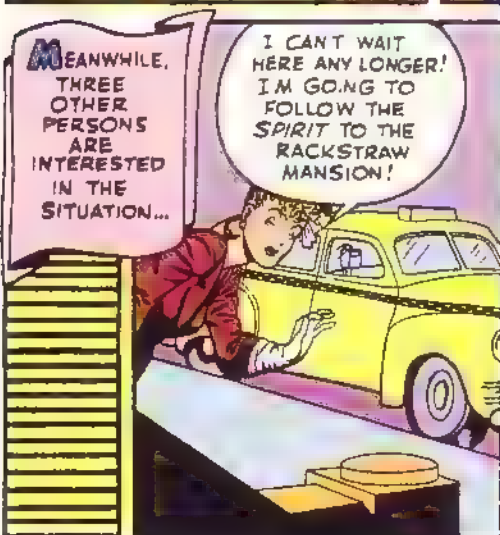
DON'T SAY  
IT! THAT  
AWFUL MAN  
WAS RIGHT!--  
PUBLICATION  
WOULD  
WRECK MY  
ROMANCE!



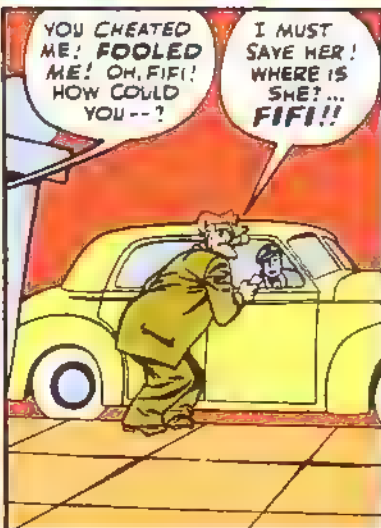
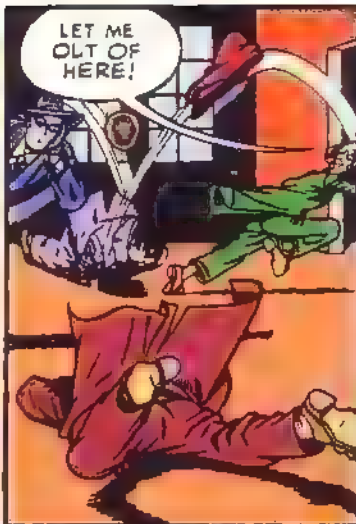
HMM! IN THAT CASE,  
TELL HIM YOU'LL SEND A  
MESSENGER WITH  
THE MONEY!

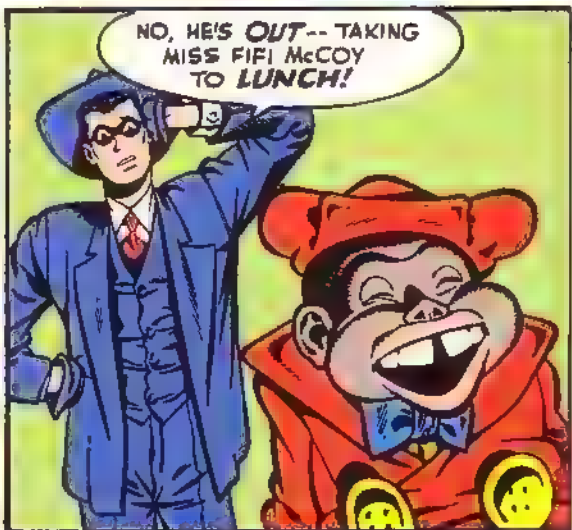
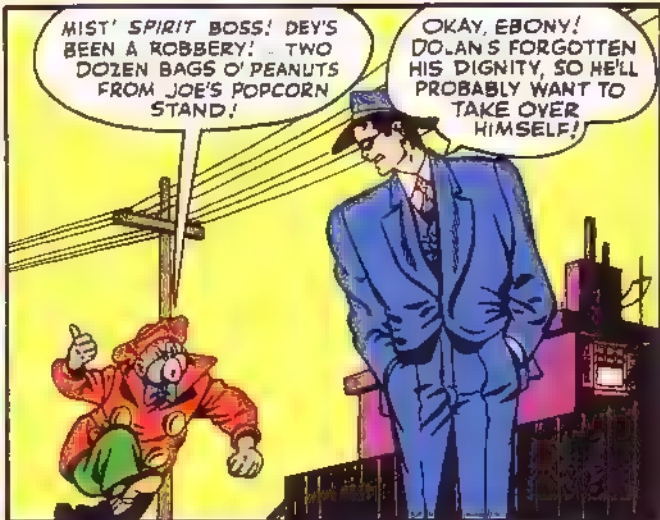
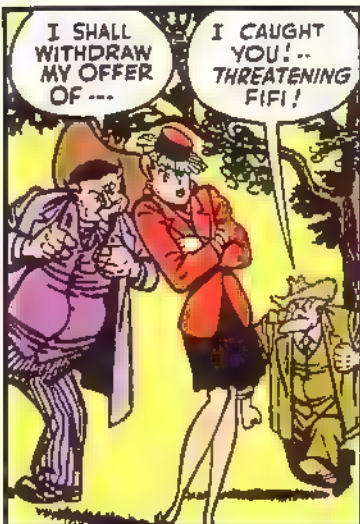














COMIC  
BOOK  
SECTION

BLACK MARX

May 21, 1944

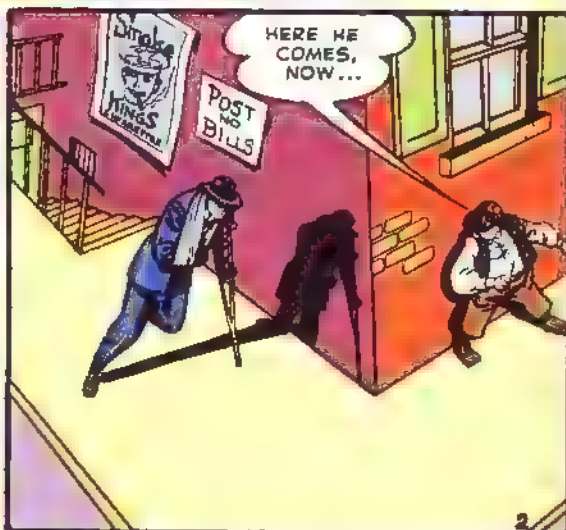
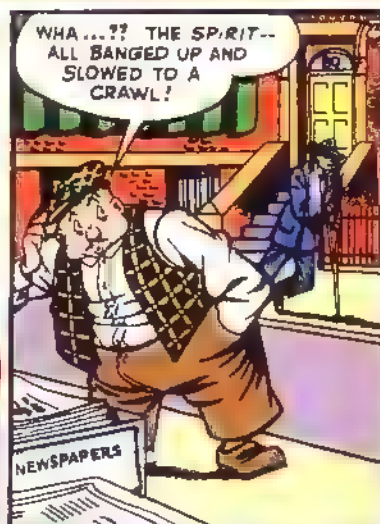
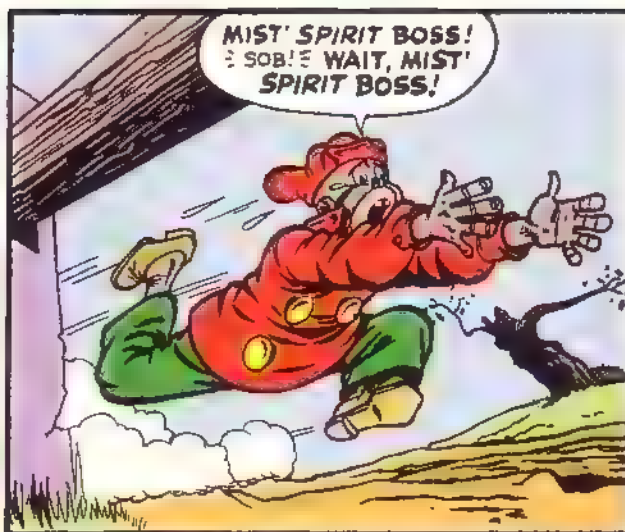
ACTION  
Mystery  
ADVENTURE

# THE SPIRIT

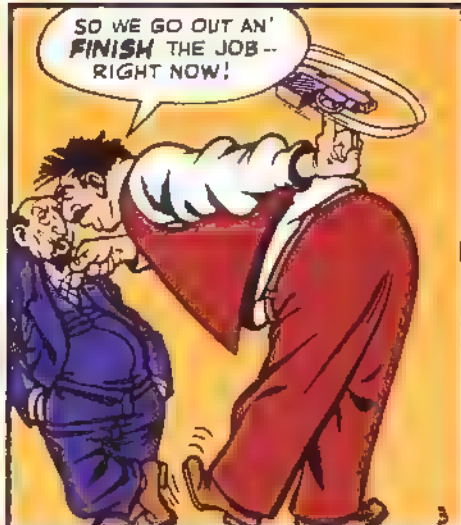
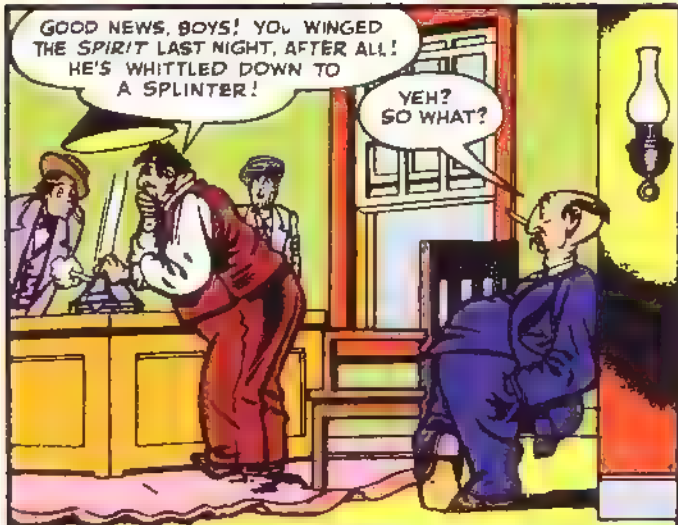
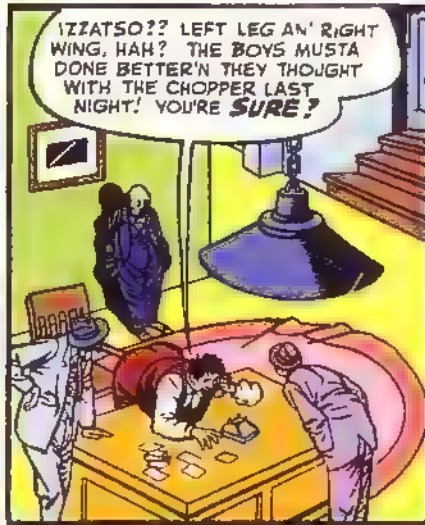
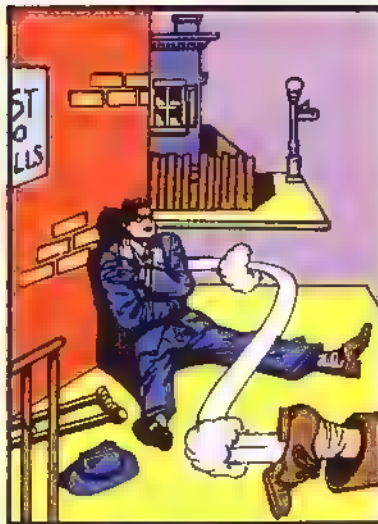
by  
Will Eisner

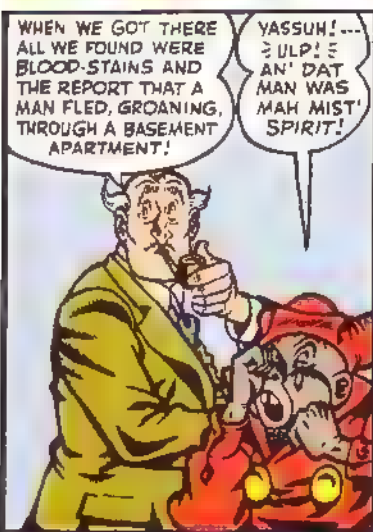
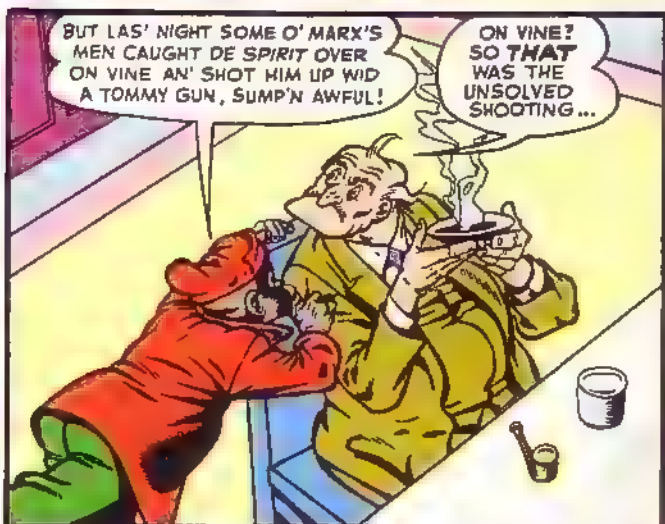
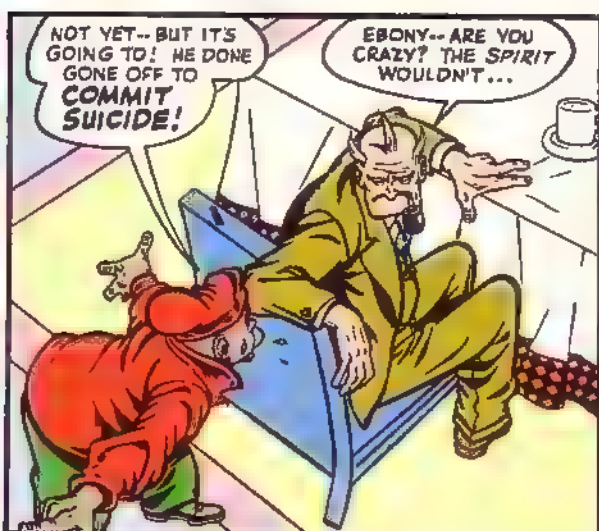


FROM his secret crime laboratory under abandoned Wildwood Cemetery comes **THE SPIRIT**-- but in a new role...

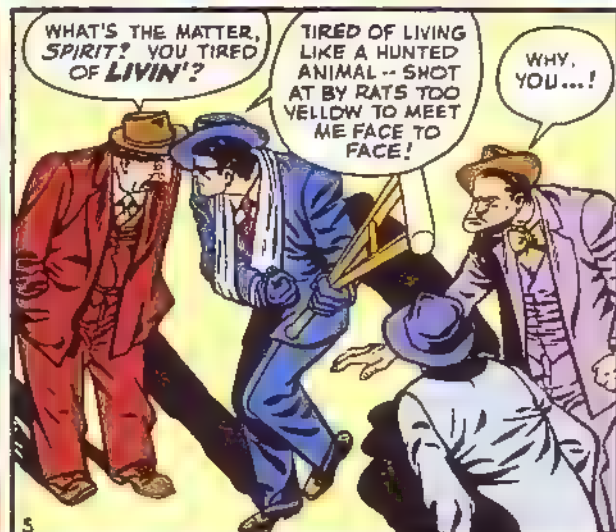
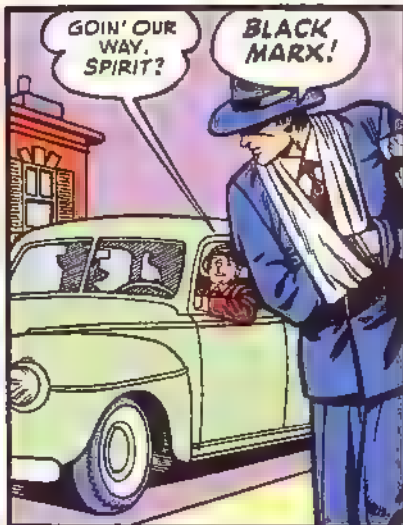
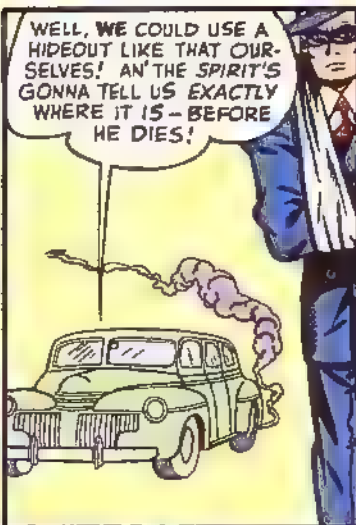
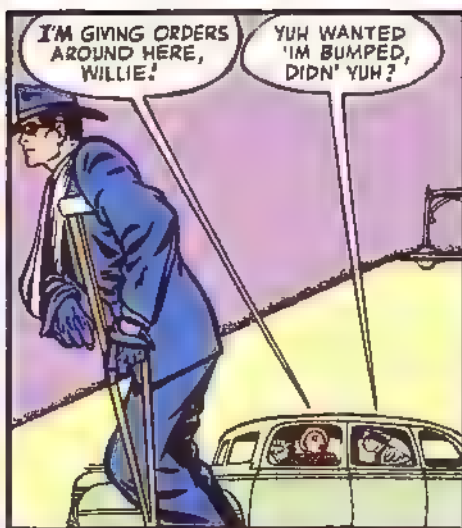
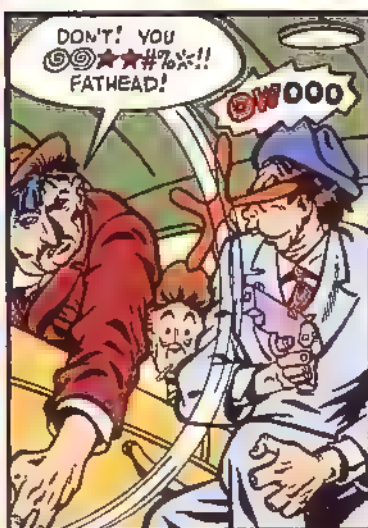


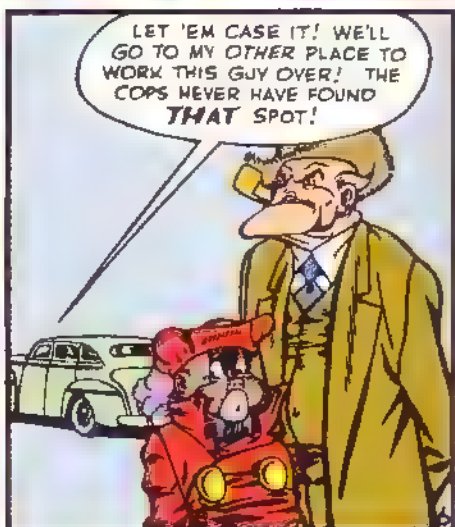
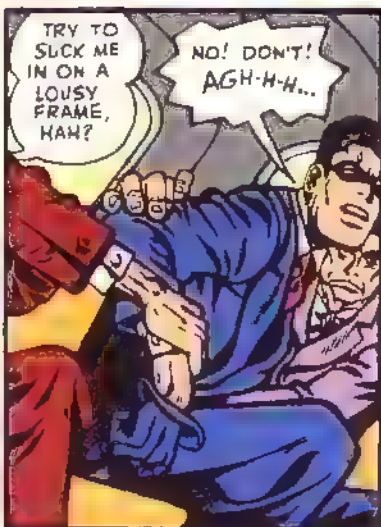
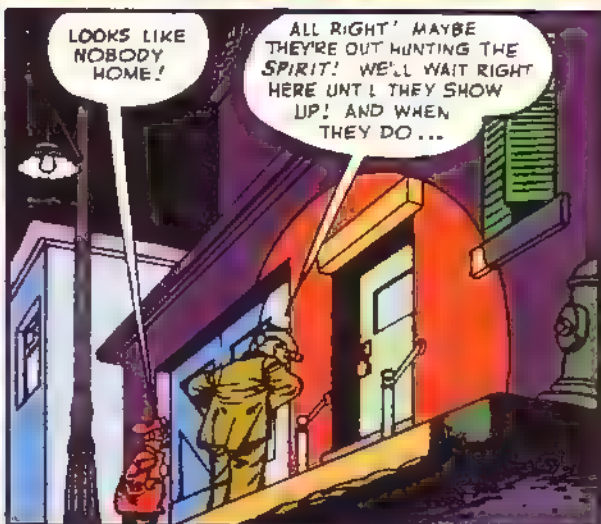
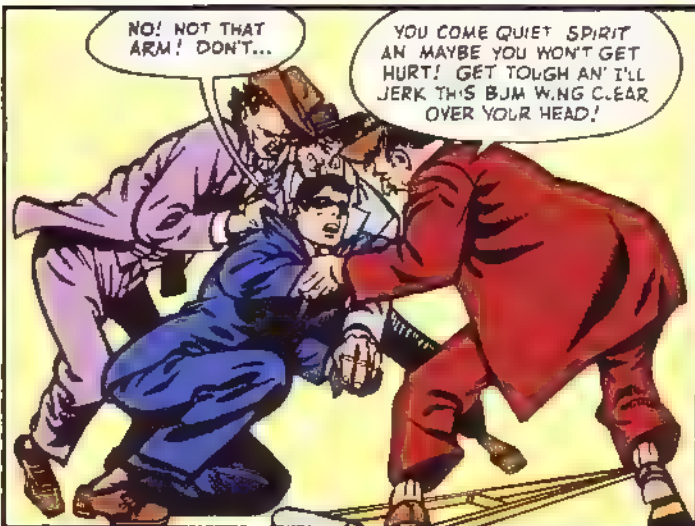




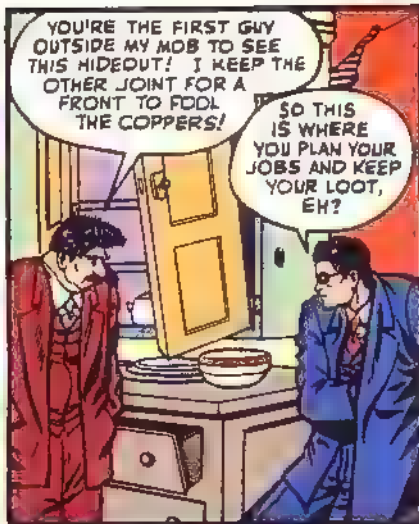
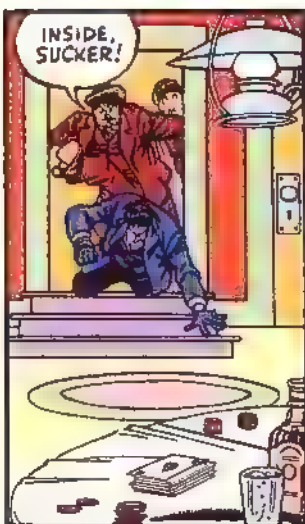


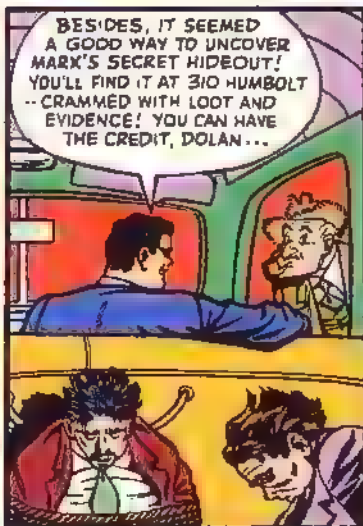
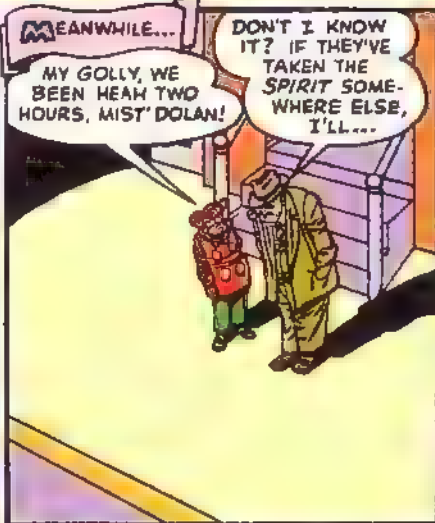
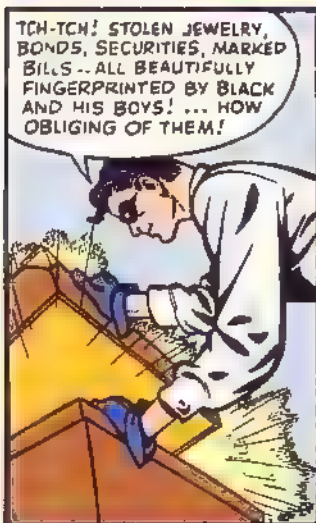
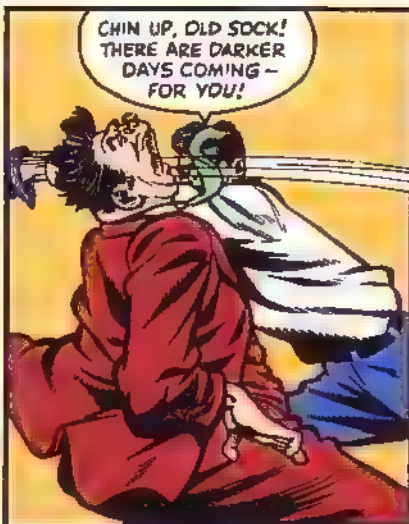
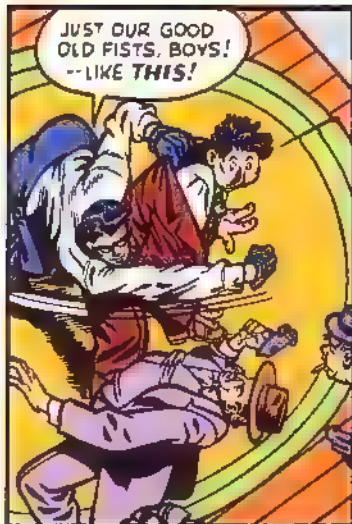








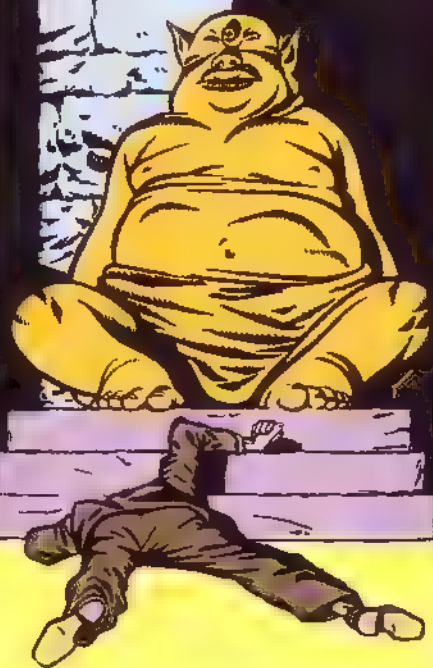






# The SPIRIT

The evil that men do lives after them...  
Marc Antony was right — and Shakespeare did well  
to remind us! — A tale of how the hand of des-  
truction reached from  
**BEYOND THE GRAVE!**



A SIDE-ROAD IN THE OPEN COUNTRY  
BEYOND CENTRAL CITY...

WE SHOT OUT  
HIS TIRES! -- SENT  
THE CAR INTO  
THE DITCH!

BUT HE'S ALL  
RIGHT! THERE  
HE GOES!





HE HEADED  
FOR THOSE  
BUSHES!



GONE!... HMM!  
THAT'S FUNNY! HE  
SURE MADE A QUICK  
GET-AWAY!

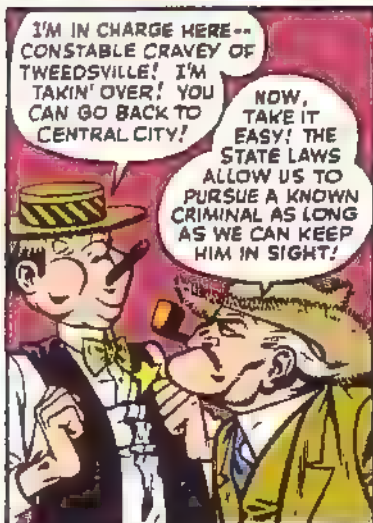
HERE COMES  
COMMISSIONER  
DOLAN!



GLAD YOU  
FOLLOWED US,  
COMMISSIONER!  
THE GUY GAVE  
US THE SLIP!

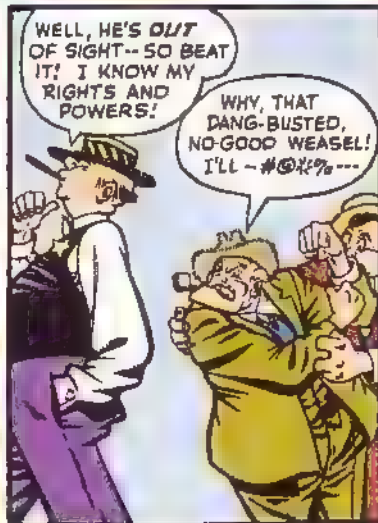
HMPF! AND  
WE'RE OFF OUR  
TERRITORY--  
OUTSIDE  
THE CITY  
LIMITS!--

JEST  
WHAT I  
WAS  
A-GOING  
TO POINT  
OUT!



I'M IN CHARGE HERE--  
CONSTABLE CRAVEY OF  
TWEEDSVILLE! I'M  
TAKIN' OVER! YOU  
CAN GO BACK TO  
CENTRAL CITY!

NOW,  
TAKE IT  
EASY! THE  
STATE LAWS  
ALLOW US TO  
PURSUE A KNOWN  
CRIMINAL AS LONG  
AS WE CAN KEEP  
HIM IN SIGHT!



WELL, HE'S OUT  
OF SIGHT-- SO BEAT  
IT! I KNOW MY  
RIGHTS AND  
POWERS!

WHY, THAT  
DANG-BUSTED,  
NO-GOOD WEASEL!  
I'LL --#@%&!--



SO YOU'RE THE  
FELLER THEY  
WAS AFTER!...  
I ARREST YOU  
IN THE NAME  
OF---

HEY! WAIT  
A MINUTE!  
I JUST TAGGED  
ALONG ON  
DOLAN'S REAR  
BUMPER! I'M  
CALLED THE  
SPIRIT!



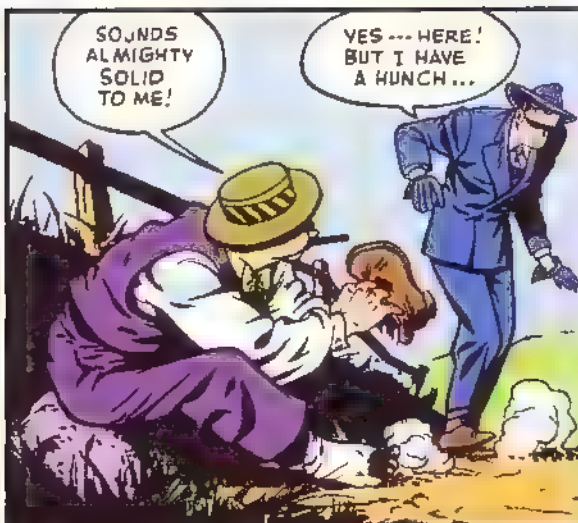
THEY WERE CHASING  
A GANG CHIEF NAMED  
**DONDRI!** -- FUNNY GUY--  
KEPT HIS MEN IN LINE WITH  
A **STRANGE RELIGION  
OF REVENGE!**

GUESS I BETTER GET A  
POSSE OUT TO GO AFTER HIM!  
HE DISAPPEARED SO FAST, YOU'D  
A-THOUGHT THE EARTH JUST  
SWALLOWED 'IM UP!



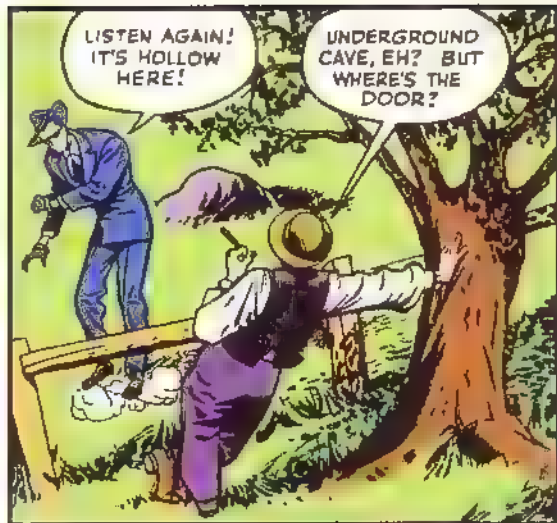
HMM! THAT'S  
AN IDEA! MAYBE  
THE EARTH **DID**  
OPEN!





SOOUNDS  
ALMIGHTY  
SOLID  
TO ME!

YES --- HERE!  
BUT I HAVE  
A HUNCH...



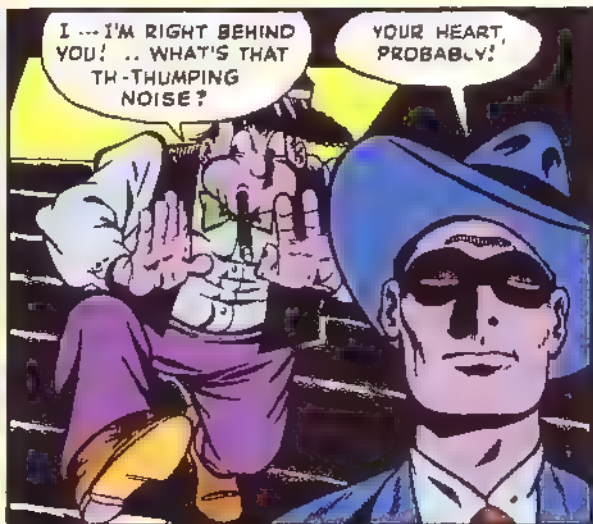
LISTEN AGAIN!  
IT'S HOLLOW  
HERE!

UNDERGROUND  
CAVE, EH? BUT  
WHERE'S THE  
DOOR?



HERE'S WHAT  
WE'RE LOOKING FOR!  
--A TRAPDOOR!  
LET'S GO  
DOWN!

UH-- YOU  
GO RIGHT  
AHEAD!



I --- I'M RIGHT BEHIND  
YOU! .. WHAT'S THAT  
TH-THUMPING  
NOISE?

YOUR HEART,  
PROBABLY!



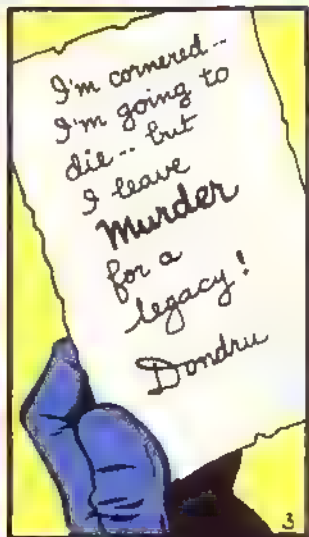
L-LOOK! TH THAT'S  
TH-TH-THE MAN  
WHO R-RAN!...

I DON'T  
THINK HE'LL  
RUN ANY  
FARTHER!

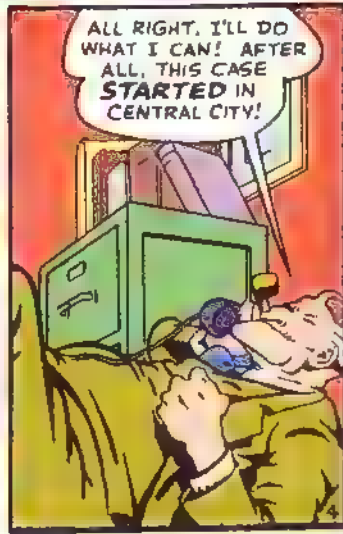
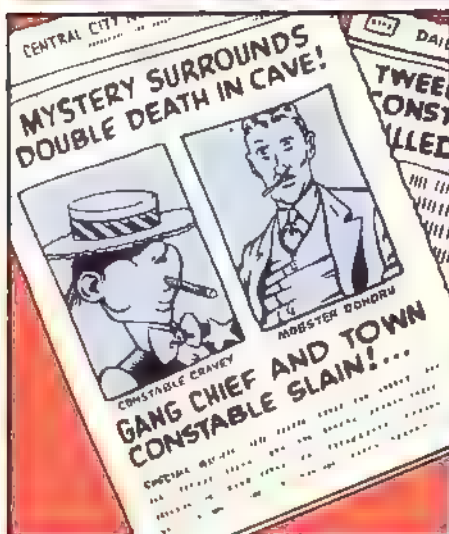


IT'S DONDUR,  
ALL RIGHT! --  
WITH A  
CRUSHED  
SKULL!

WHAT'S  
THAT IN  
HIS  
HAND?



I'm cornered --  
I'm going to  
die... but  
I leave  
**Murder**  
for a  
legacy!  
Dondur



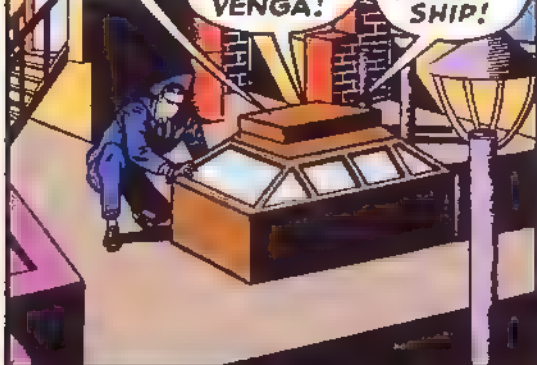


THE CASE IS DISCUSSED BY OTHERS...

DONDURU'S  
DEAD! I'M  
NOT SORRY!

NO MORE  
MESSIN'  
AROUND  
WITH THAT GOD  
VENGA!

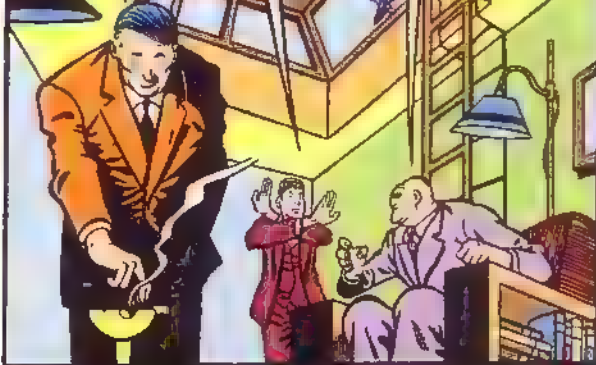
LET'S  
DISSOLVE  
THE  
PARTNER-  
SHIP!



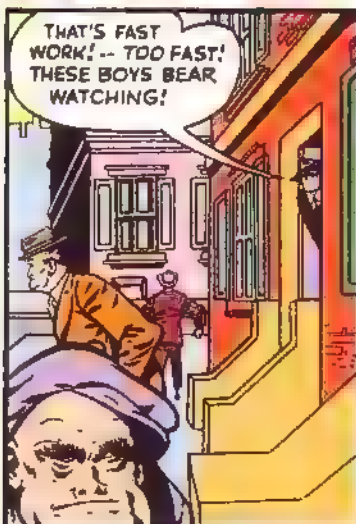
I'M FOR  
THAT!

ME, TOO!  
NO MORE  
DONDURU  
OR VENG!

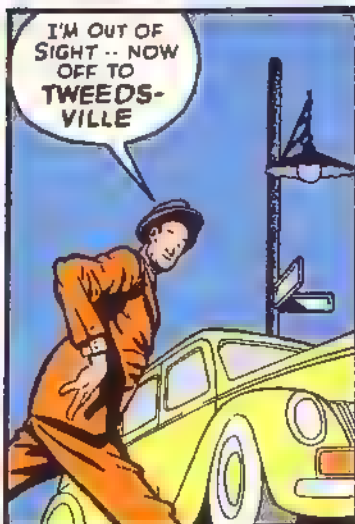
SHAKE ON IT!  
WE GO THREE  
SEPARATE  
WAYS!



THAT'S FAST  
WORK! -- TOO FAST!  
THESE BOYS BEAR  
WATCHING!



I'M OUT OF  
SIGHT -- NOW  
OFF TO  
TWEEDS-  
VILLE

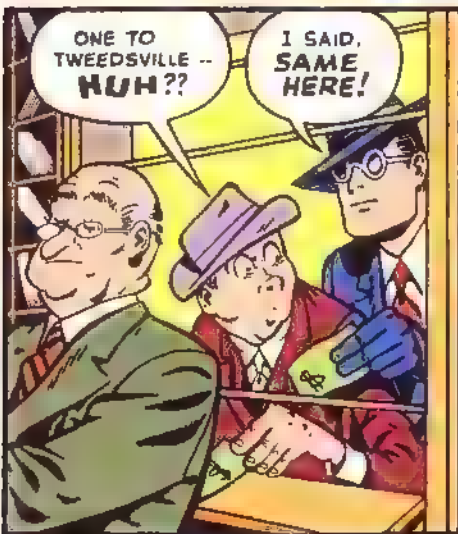


YEP, THIS IS THE  
TWEEDSVILLE BUS!  
GET IN!



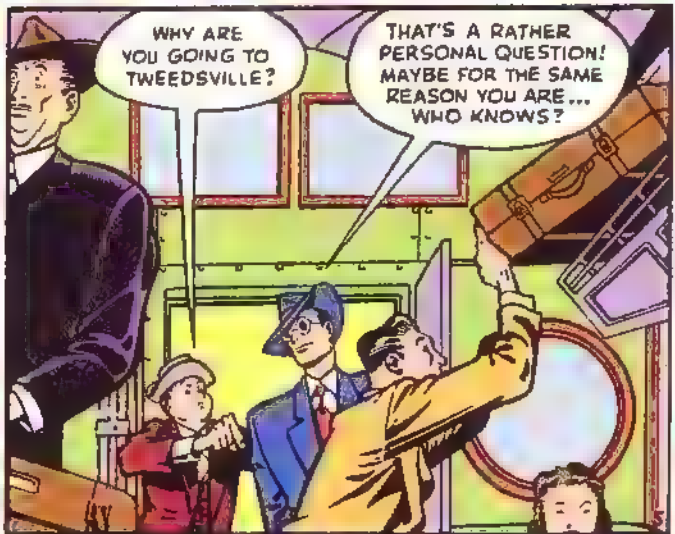
ONE TO  
TWEEDSVILLE --  
HUH??

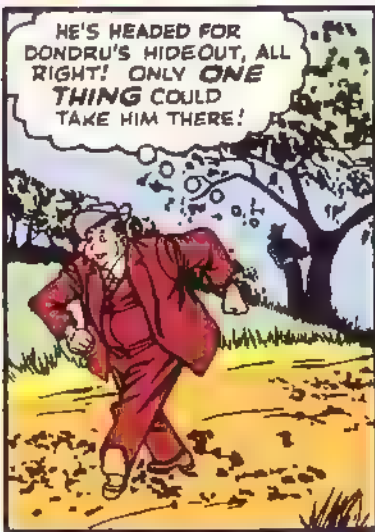
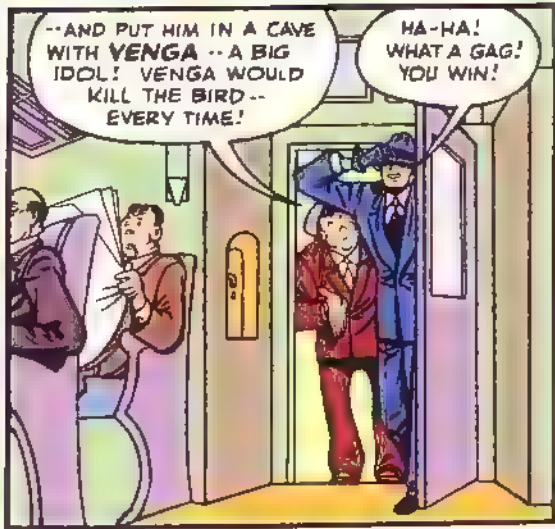
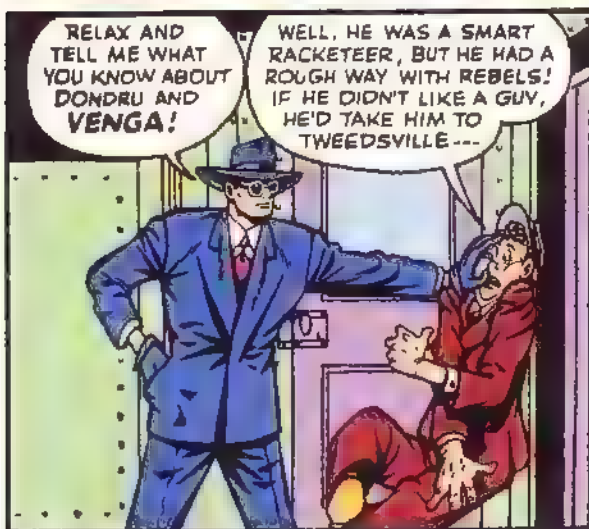
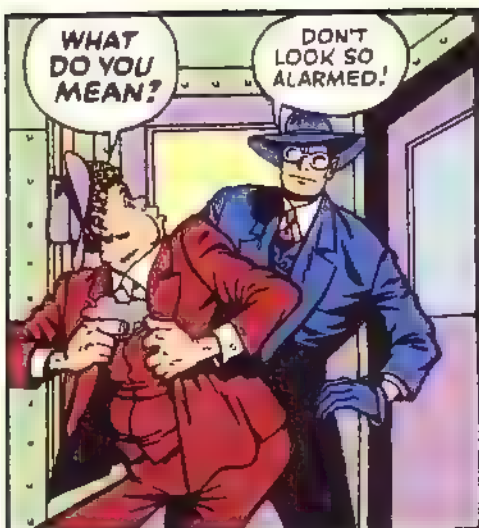
I SAID,  
SAME  
HERE!



WHY ARE  
YOU GOING TO  
TWEEDSVILLE?

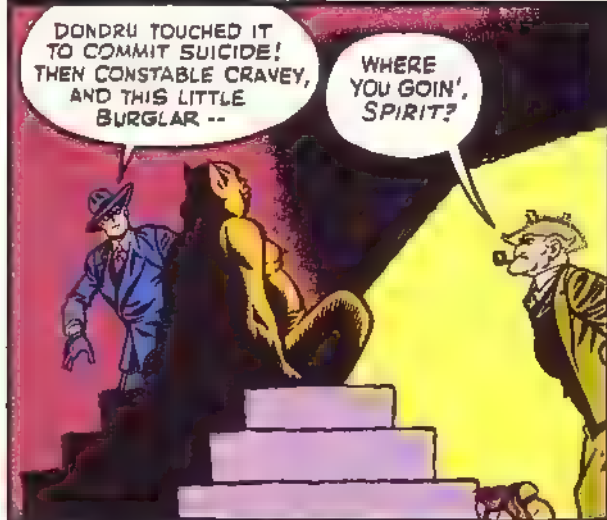
THAT'S A RATHER  
PERSONAL QUESTION!  
MAYBE FOR THE SAME  
REASON YOU ARE ...  
WHO KNOWS?









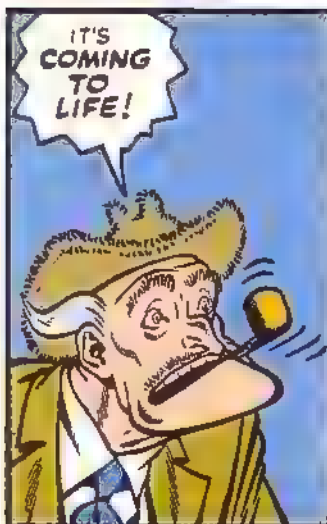


DONDROU TOUCHED IT  
TO COMMIT SUICIDE!  
THEN CONSTABLE CRAVEY,  
AND THIS LITTLE  
BURGLAR --

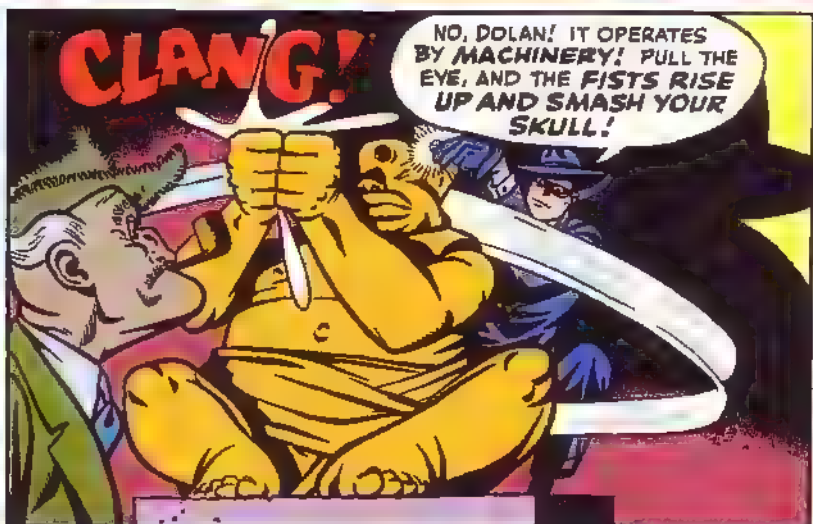
WHERE  
YOU GOIN',  
SPIRIT?



TO BE OUT OF  
THE WAY!... WATCH!  
I TOUCH IT---



IT'S  
COMING  
TO LIFE!



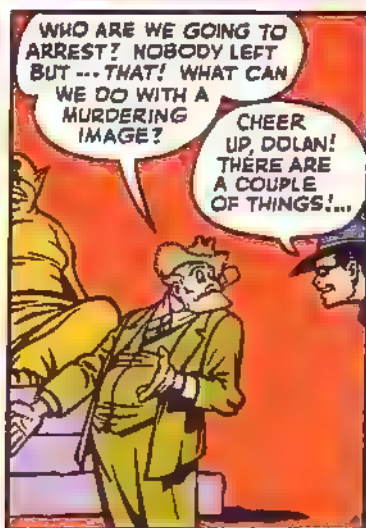
**CLANG!**

NO, DOLAN! IT OPERATES  
BY MACHINERY! PULL THE  
EYE, AND THE FISTS RISE  
UP AND SMASH YOUR  
SKULL!



DONDROU THOUGHT HE  
WAS TRAPPED--WOULDN'T  
FACE JUSTICE! BUT HE  
WAS CRUEL ENOUGH  
TO WANT OTHERS  
TO DIE!

SO HE  
LEFT HIS  
IDOL-TRAP  
--BAITED  
WITH THE  
DIAMOND!  
WHAT A LOW-  
DOWN TRICK!



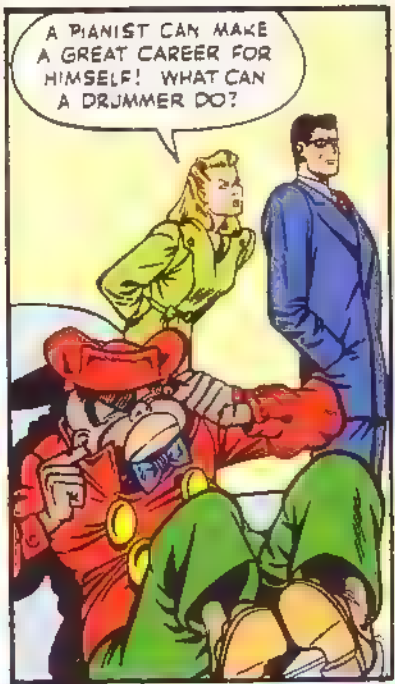
WHO ARE WE GOING TO  
ARREST? NOBODY LEFT  
BUT --- THAT! WHAT CAN  
WE DO WITH A  
MURDERING  
IMAGE?

CHEER  
UP, DOLAN!  
THERE ARE  
A COUPLE  
OF THINGS!...



MELT DOWN THE  
METAL FOR THE  
SCRAP DRIVE..  
AND SELL THE  
DIAMOND TO BUY  
WAR BONDS!





QUIET!

THE ROYAL PRINCESS ALICE VISITS OUR COUNTRY!... RIGHT SMACK IN CENTRAL CITY HER DIAMOND TIARA, WORTH MILLIONS, IS STOLEN! ALL MY MEN ARE ON THE CASE AND CAN'T FIND IT!

I'VE GOT TO THINK... THINK... THINK! BUT CAN I FIND PEACE AND QUIET IN MY OWN HOME? NO! I'VE GOT TO LISTEN TO THIS INFERNAL UPROAR!

WILL IT BE DRUMS OR THE PIANO? THE PIANO OR DRUMS? TEACH HIM TO PLAY THE KAZOO, BUT FOR HEAVEN'S SAKE, **SHADDUP!**

WE WON'T DISTURB YOU WITH ANY MORE ARGUING, DADDY! IT'S ALL SETTLED!... EBONY'S GOING TO BE A PIANIST!

YO! MUST ADMIT DRUMS IS FUN!

**SIAM!**

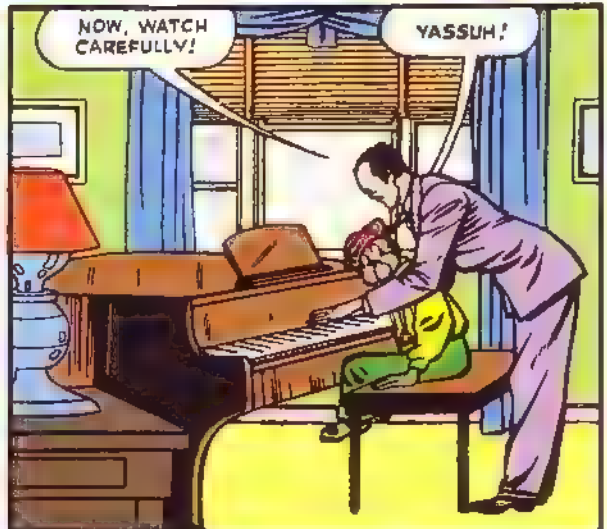
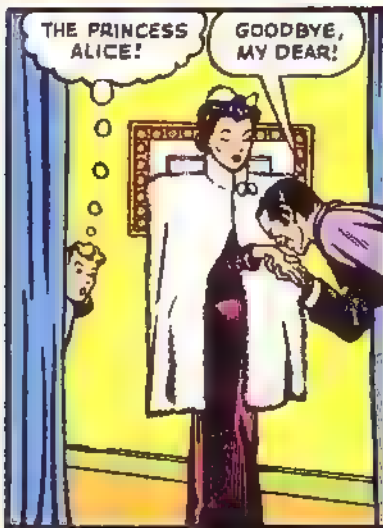
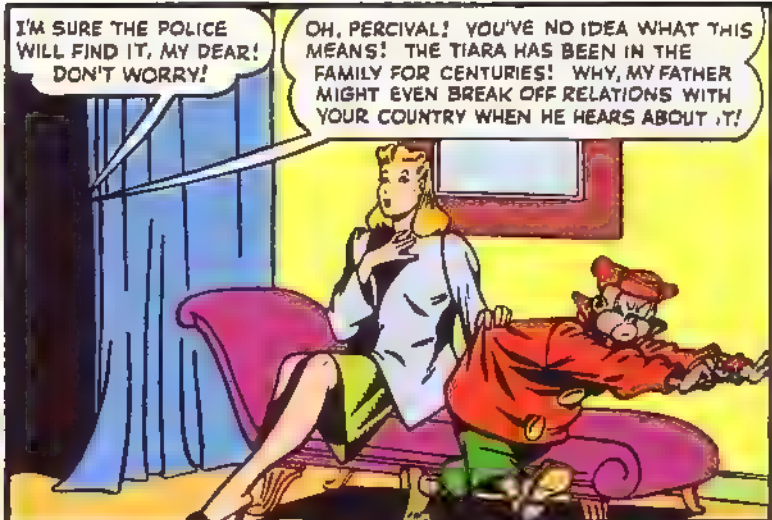
SOMEBODY WAS TELLING ME ABOUT A WONDERFUL PIANO TEACHER! WE'LL LOOK HIM UP!

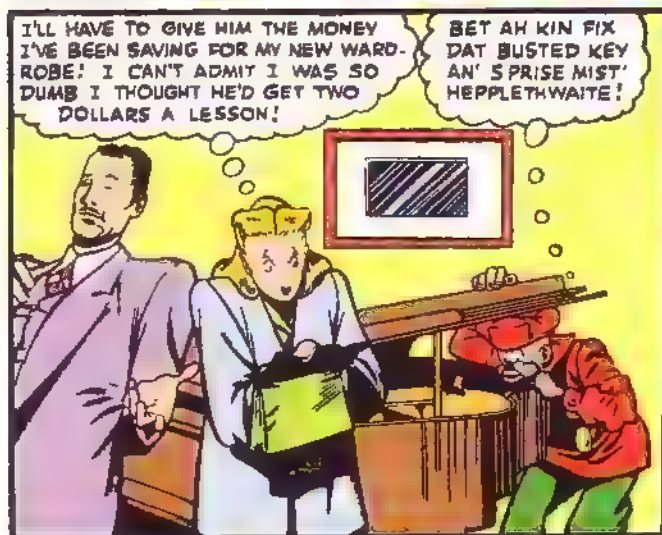
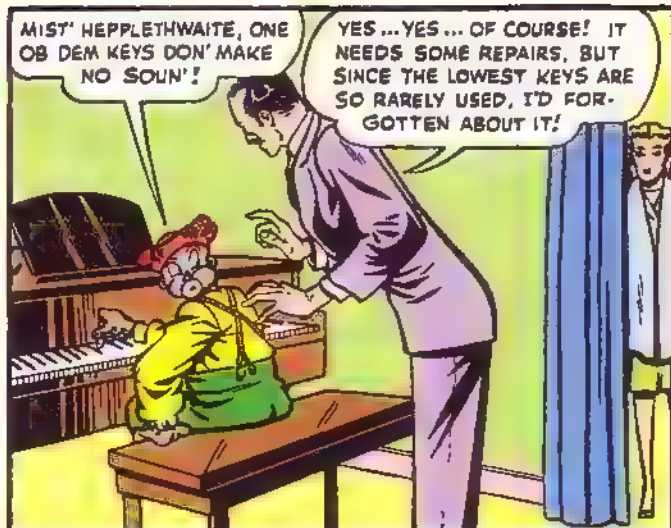
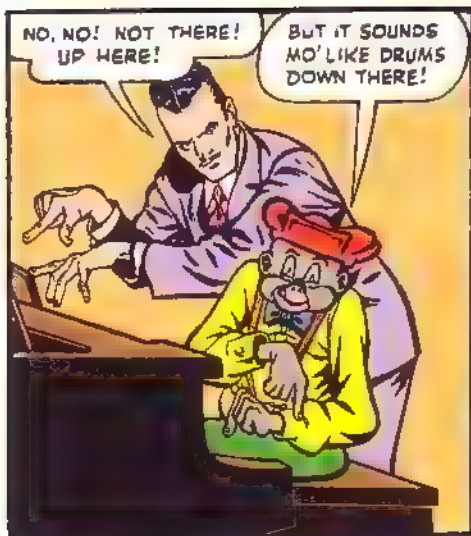
BUT, MISS ELLEN... YO' GITS MO' EXERCISE PLAYIN' DRUMS!

HERE WE ARE! THIS IS HIS STUDIO!

PERCIVAL  
HEPPLETHWAITE  
PIANOFORTE





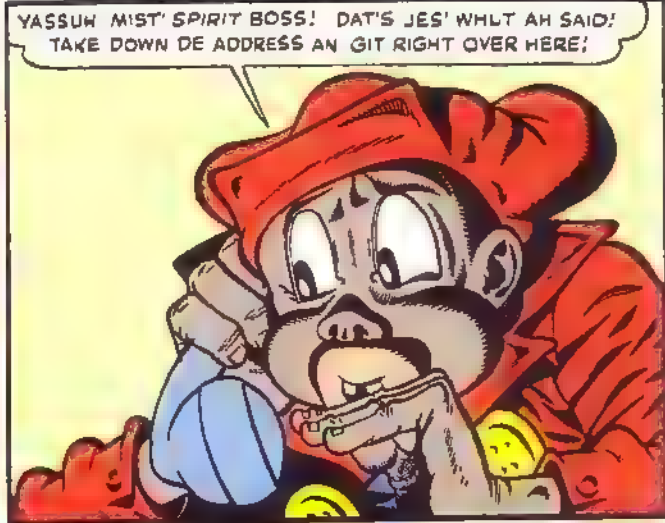




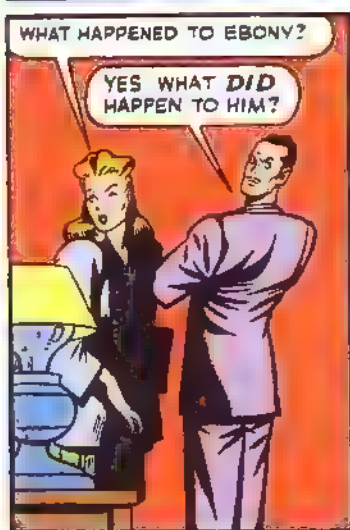


THERE YOU ARE!

AH HOPES THERE'S A PHONE IN DAT ROOM!

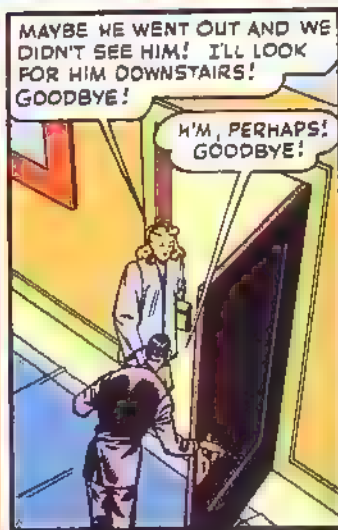


YASSUH MIST' SPIRIT BOSS! DAT'S JES' WHLT AH SAID! TAKE DOWN DE ADDRESS AN GIT RIGHT OVER HERE!



WHAT HAPPENED TO EBONY?

YES WHAT DID HAPPEN TO HIM?



MAYBE HE WENT OUT AND WE DIDN'T SEE HIM! I'LL LOOK FOR HIM DOWNSTAIRS! GOODBYE!

H'M, PERHAPS! GOODBYE!

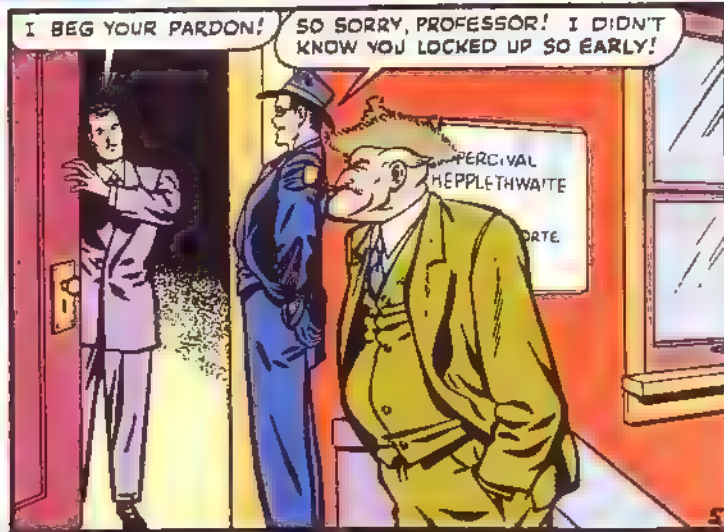


WE'D HAVE SEEN HIM IF HE WENT OUT!



WELL, I CAN'T WASTE TIME WONDERING ABOUT IT! I HAVE MORE IMPORTANT THINGS TO DO!

KNOCK  
KNOCK

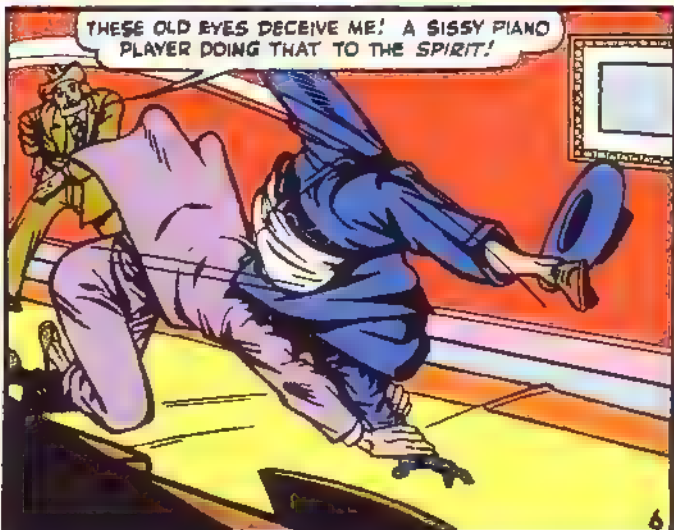
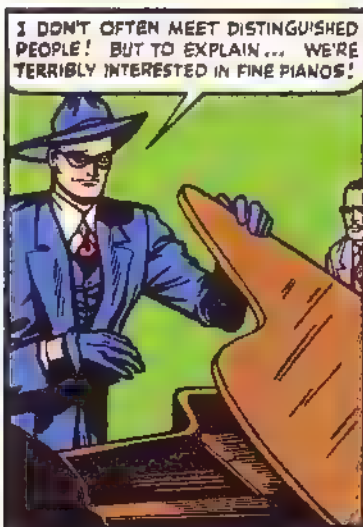
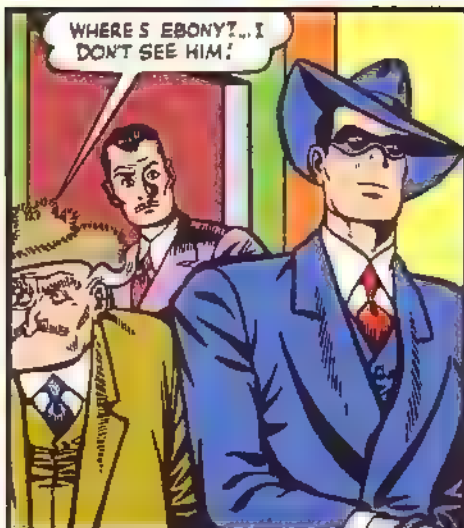


I BEG YOUR PARDON!

SO SORRY, PROFESSOR! I DIDN'T KNOW YOU LOCKED UP SO EARLY!

PERCIVAL  
HEPPLETHWAITE

ORTE

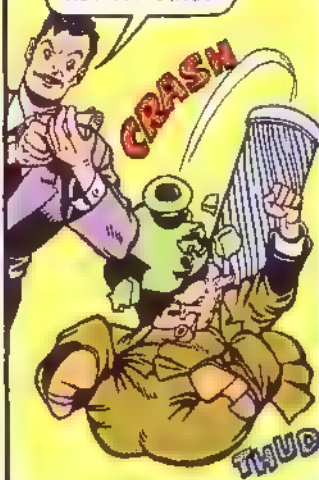




AS FOR YOU, COMM 55 ONER, AREN'T YOU A LITTLE OLD TO BE GOING IN FOR GUNNERY?



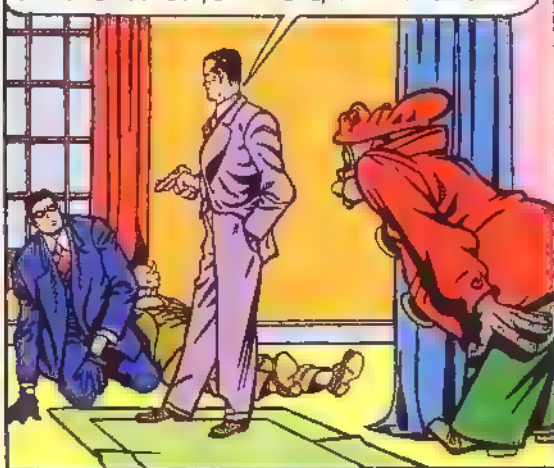
HOW AMUSING!



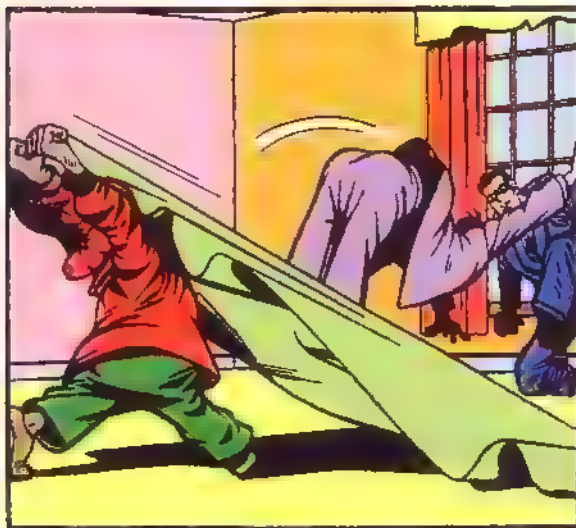
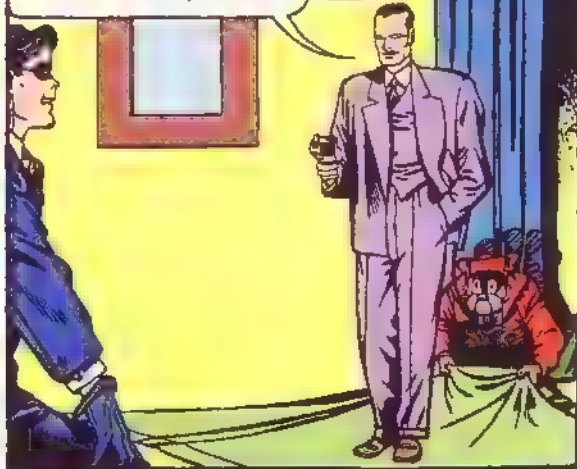
RECKON AH KIN GO IN NOW! DAT SOUNDS LIKE MAH SPIRIT FINISHED DE JOB!



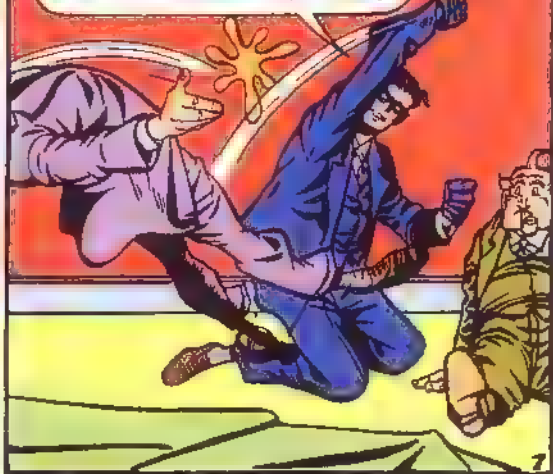
OF COURSE I FIND THIS SORT OF THING MOST DISTASTEFUL! BUT, I SUPPOSE, IT HAS TO BE DONE!



I ASSURE YOU, YOU WON'T FIND IT A BIT FUNNY, SPIRIT!



THE FIRST ROUND WAS YOURS! BUT WHAT ABOUT THIS ONE?



REMEMBER HIM, DOLAN? HE'S A LITTLE EASIER TO RECOGNIZE WHEN HIS FACE IS RELAXED!... PERCY DARCY, BETTER KNOWN AS STEEL FINGERS DARCY!

HOW DID I FORGET? I SENT HIM UP ONCE MYSELF!



WHEW! WHAT A LOAD OF ICE! WHEN DARCY DECIDED TO DO BUSINESS AS A HIGH CLASS PIANIST, HE WASN'T GOING AFTER SMALL CHANGE! BETTER PHONE THE PRINCESS, DOLAN!



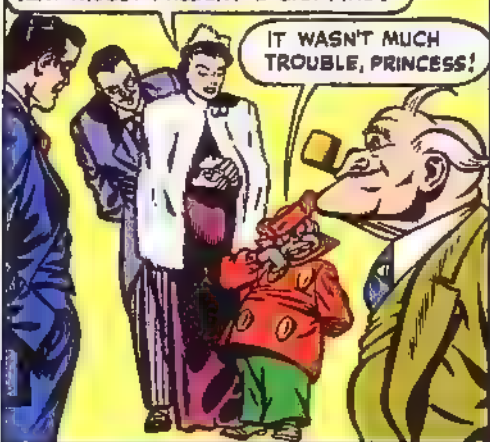
EBONY, YOU CAN GIVE IT TO HER WHEN SHE COMES! IF IT WEREN'T FOR YOU, SHE WOULDN'T BE GETTING IT BACK!

SHE JUST MANAGED TO WITHSTAND THE SHOCK WHEN I EXPLAINED! SHE'S COMING RIGHT OVER!



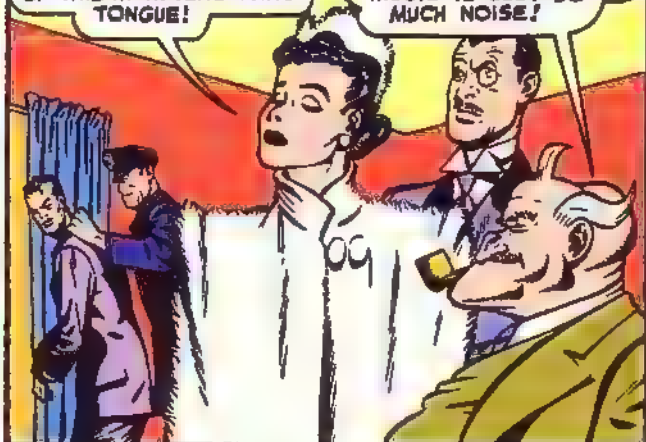
YOU DEAR LITTLE BOY! I CAN NEVER THANK YOU ENOUGH! I WILL SEND YOU THE VERY NICEST PRESENT I CAN FIND!

IT WASN'T MUCH TROUBLE, PRINCESS!



TO THINK THAT MY LOVE OF MUSIC MADE ME THE VICTIM OF THIS MONSTER'S LYING TONGUE!

THAT'S WHAT I ALWAYS SAY, TOO, YOUR HIGHNESS! MUSIC IS JUST SO MUCH NOISE!

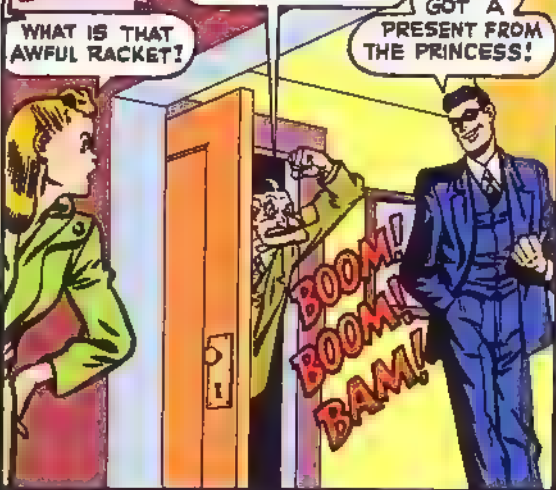


Later...

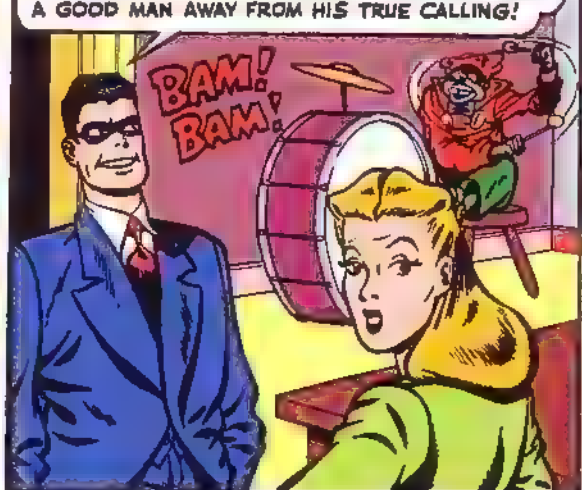
IT'S KILLING ME!

EBONY GOT A PRESENT FROM THE PRINCESS!

WHAT IS THAT AWFUL RACKET?



I'VE ALWAYS TOLD YOU, ELLEN! YOU CAN'T KEEP A GOOD MAN AWAY FROM HIS TRUE CALLING!





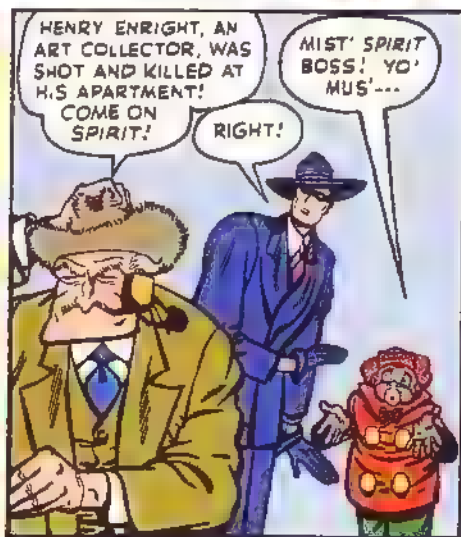
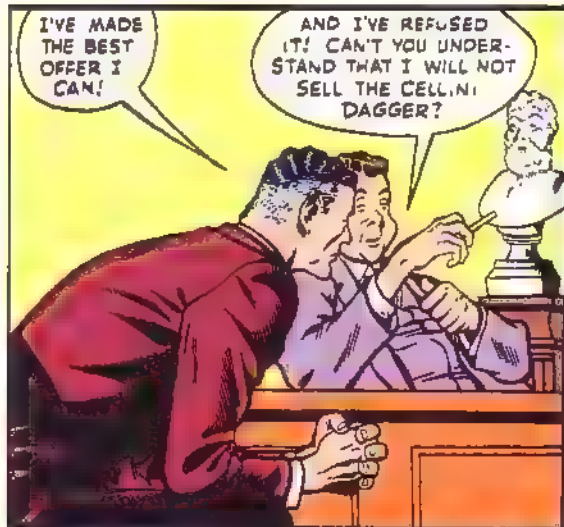
COMIC  
BOOK  
SECTION

THE CELLINI DAGGER

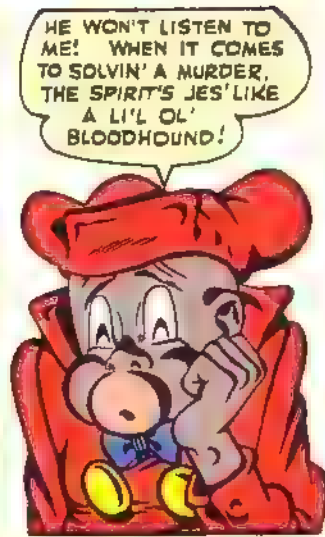
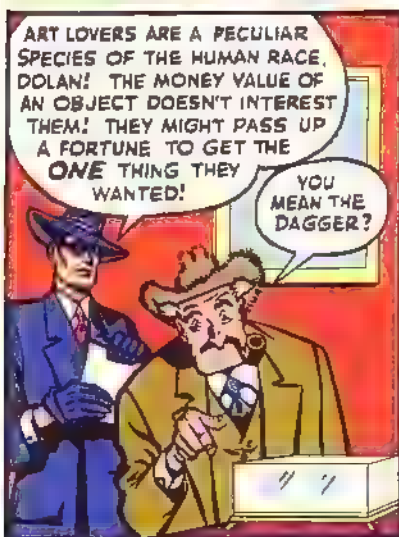
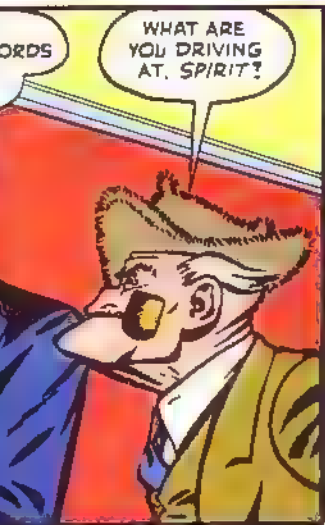
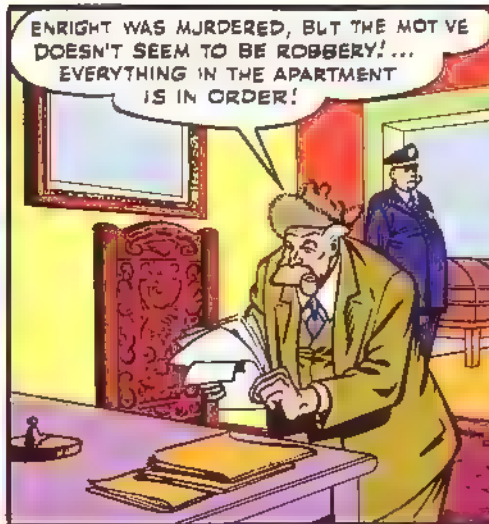
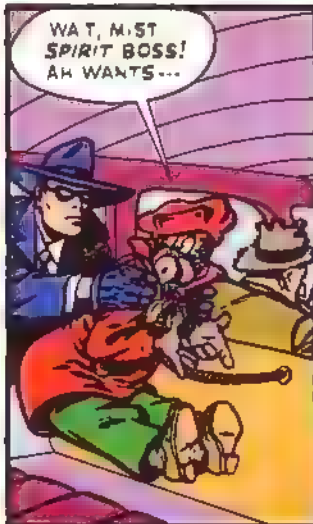
June 11, 1944

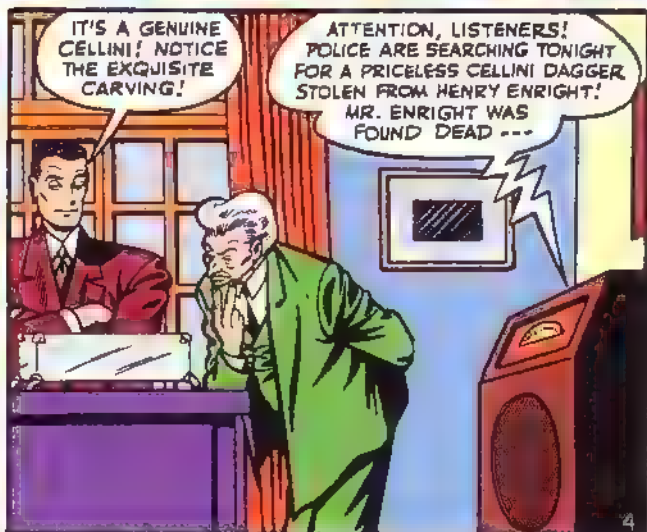
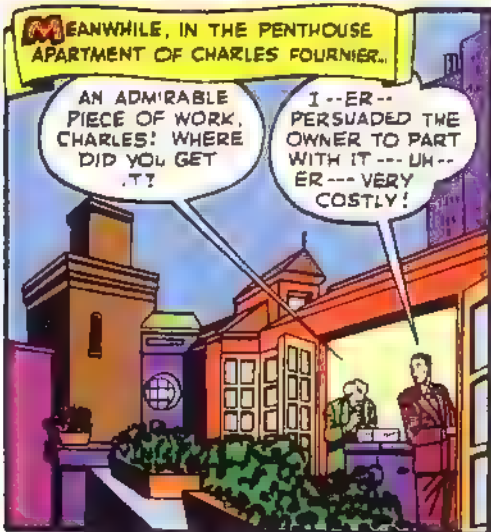
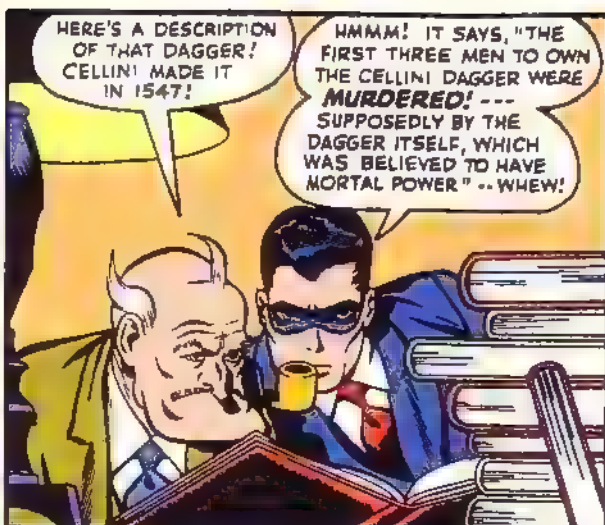
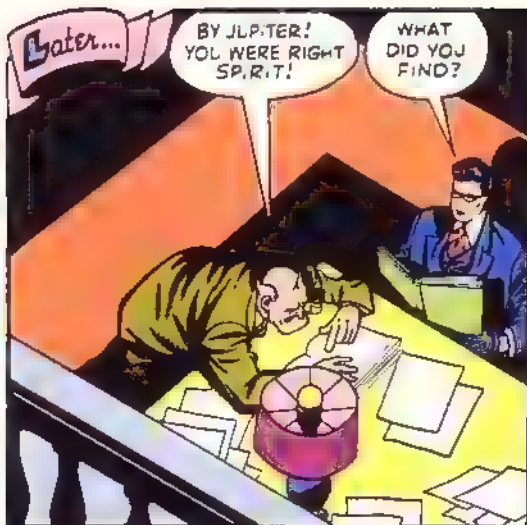
ACTION  
Mystery  
ADVENTURE



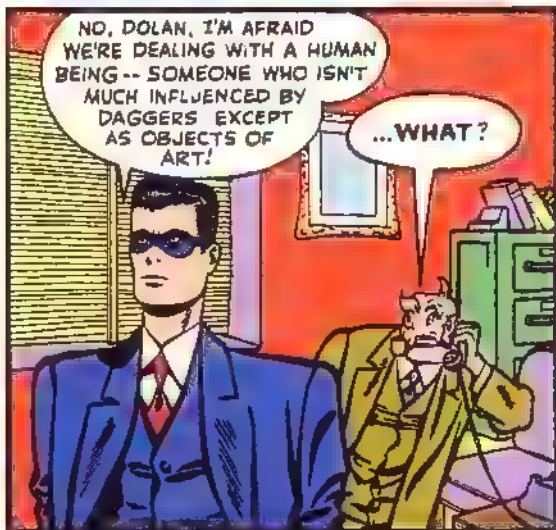
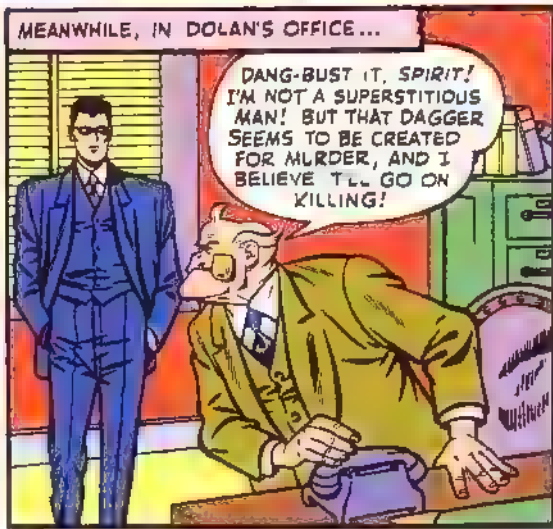
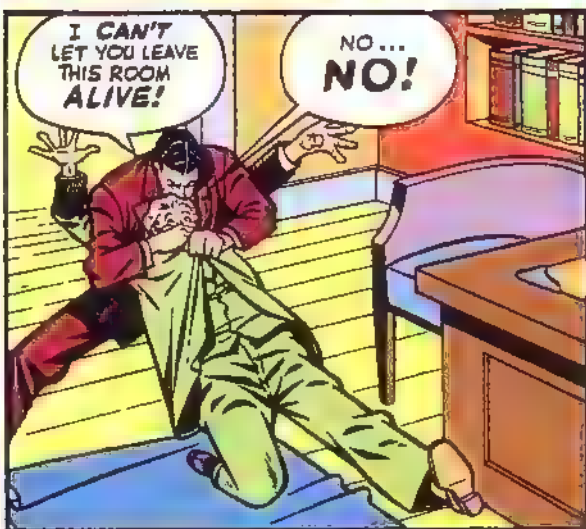


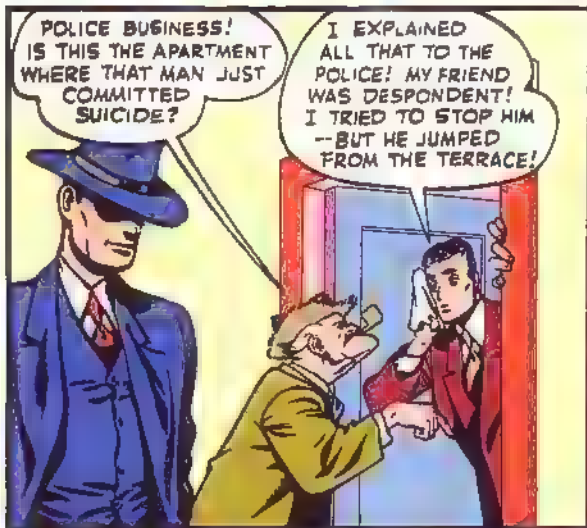
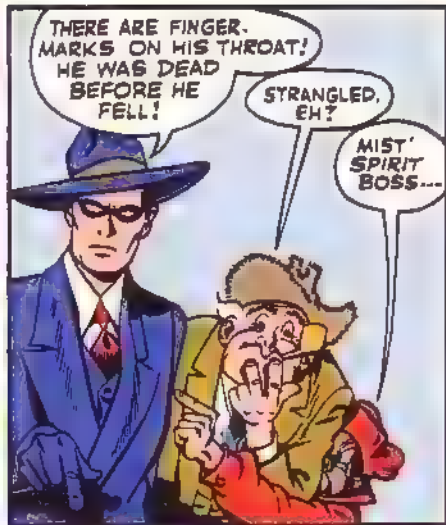




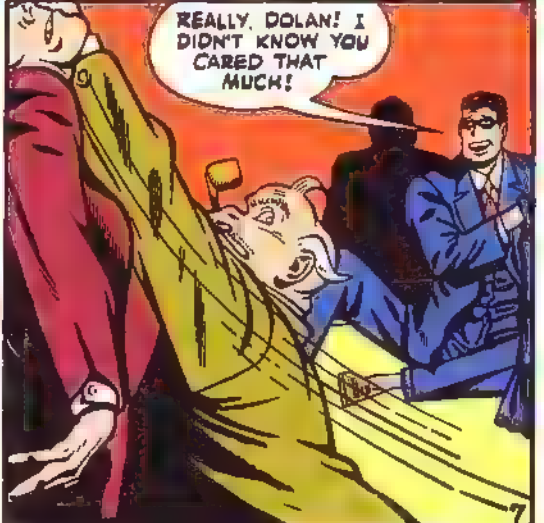


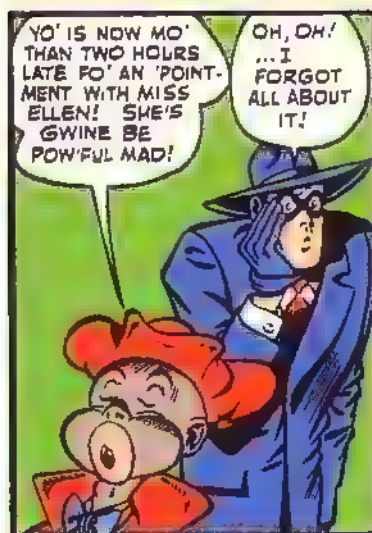
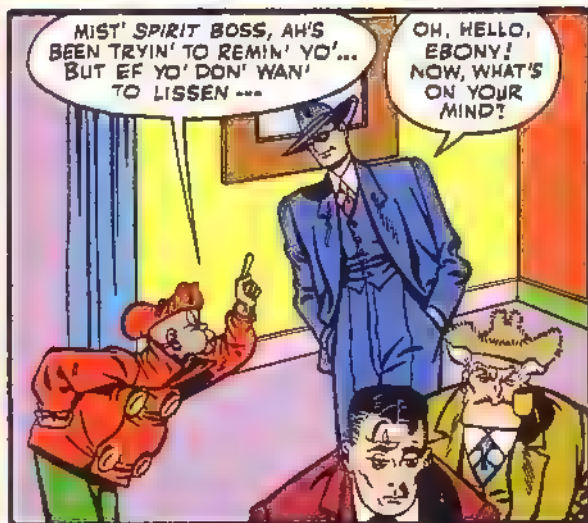
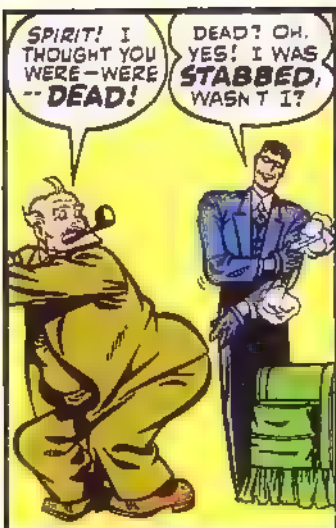






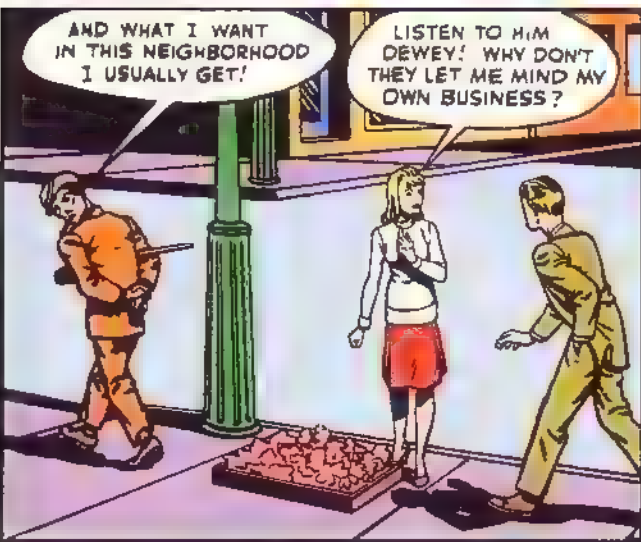
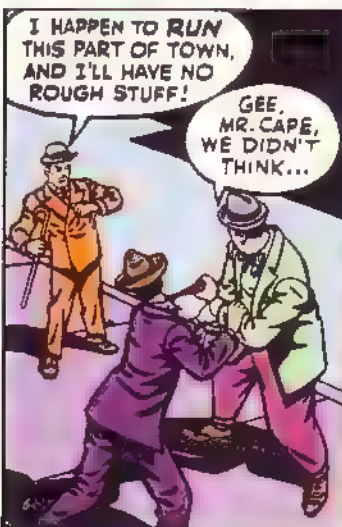




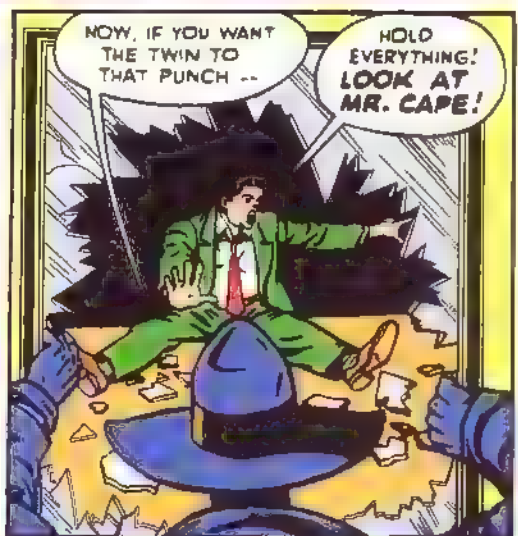
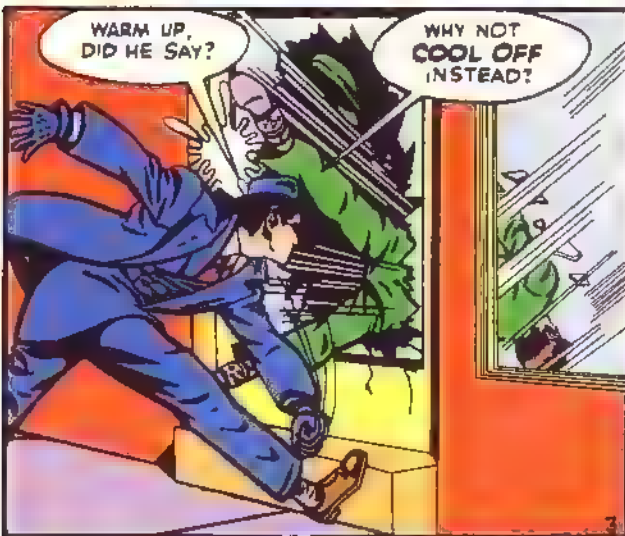


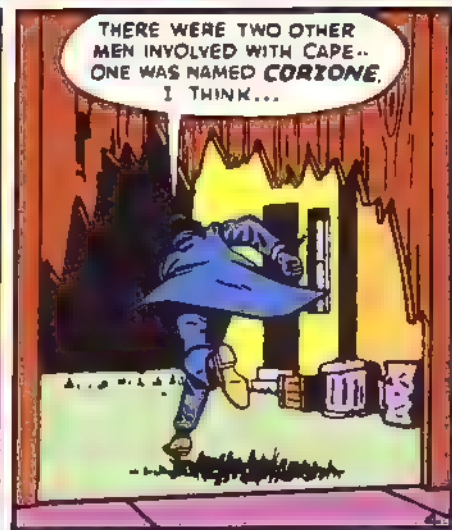
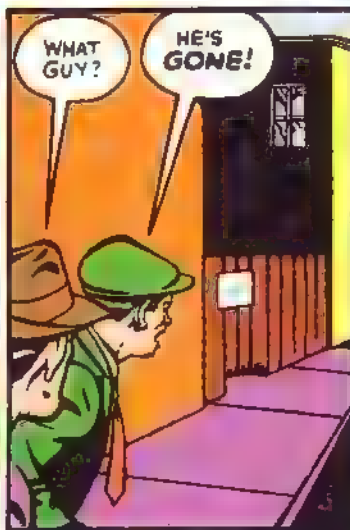
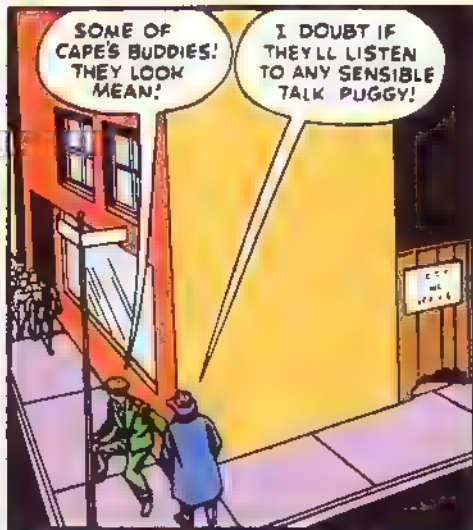




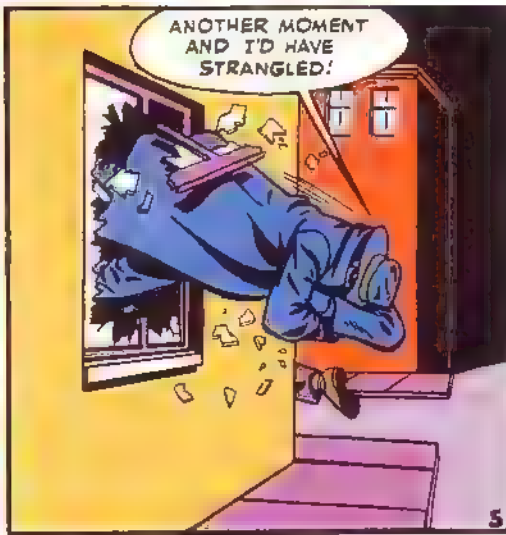


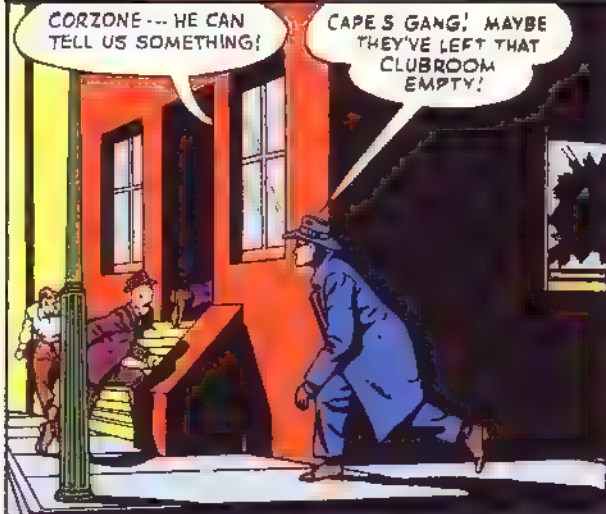












CORZONE --- HE CAN TELL US SOMETHING!

CAPE S GANG! MAYBE THEY'VE LEFT THAT CLUBROOM EMPTY!



NO, SPIRIT ... IT'S NOT QUITE EMPTY!...

THEY'VE GONE, TAKEN THE BODY! NOW TO FIND OUT IF ---



HE KEPT TH'S DRAWER LOCKED! THAT MEANS THE CONTENTS ARE **SECRET!**

YES -- A COPY OF A LEGAL DOCUMENT-- AND IT SAYS ---



SUPPOSE I TAKE A LOOK TOO!



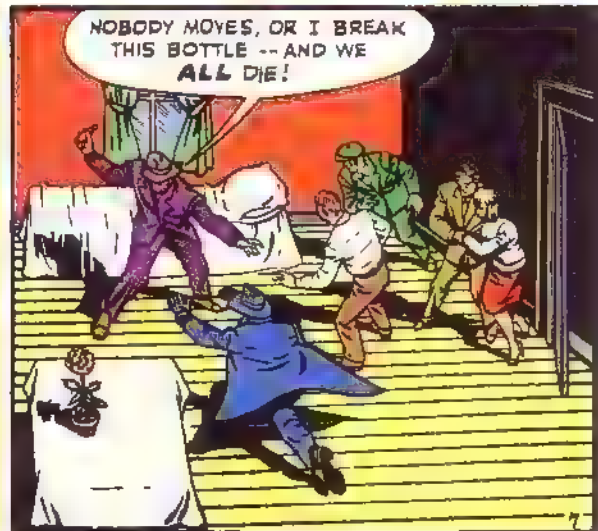
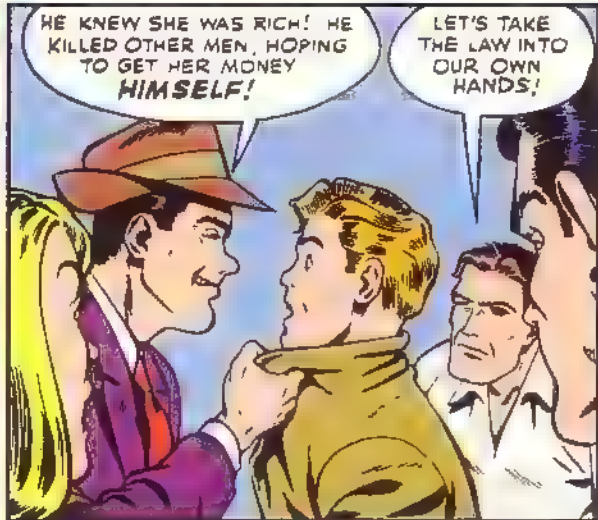
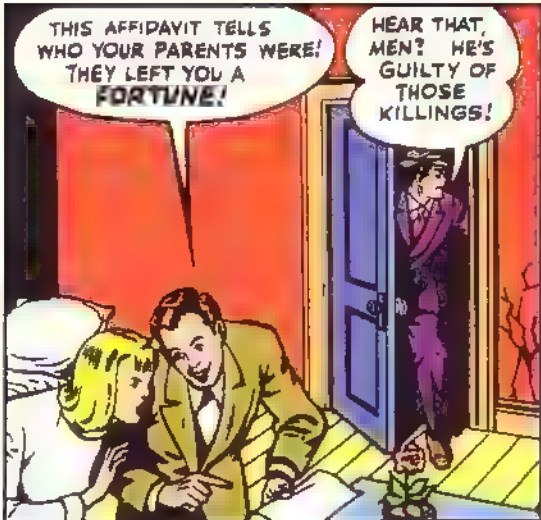
I DON'T KNOW WHO YOU ARE -- AND I'LL SHOW YOU NOTHING!

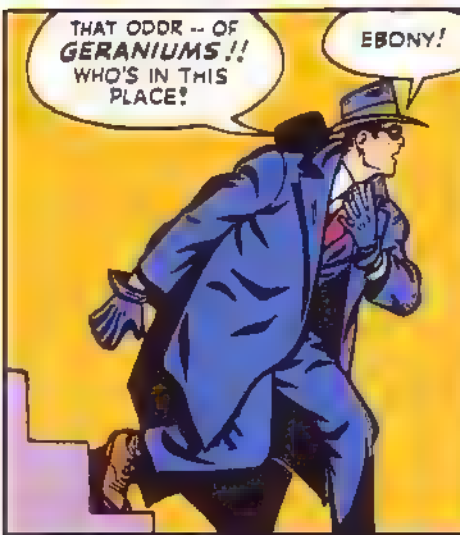
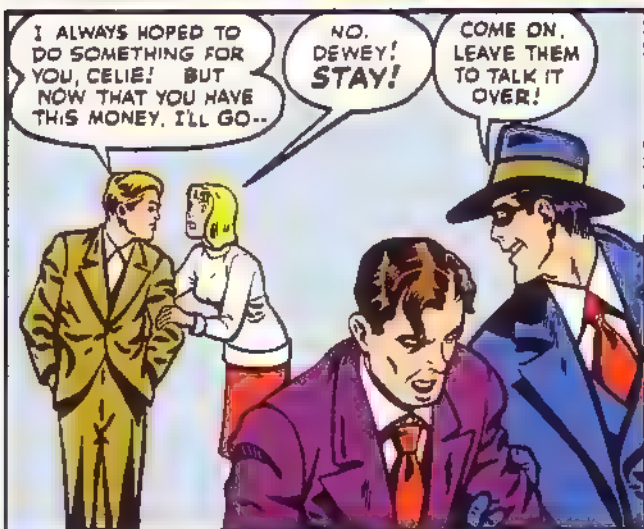
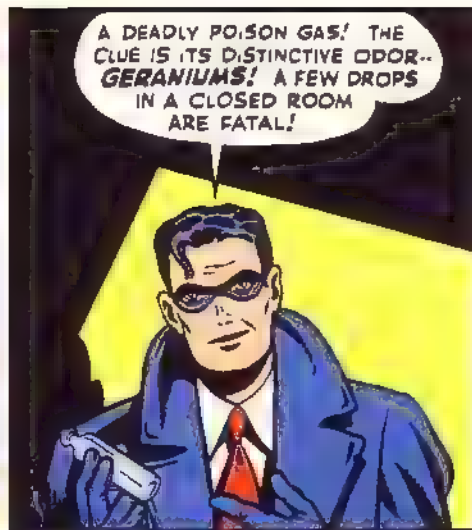


DEWEY!

THANK HEAVEN YOU'RE ALONE!



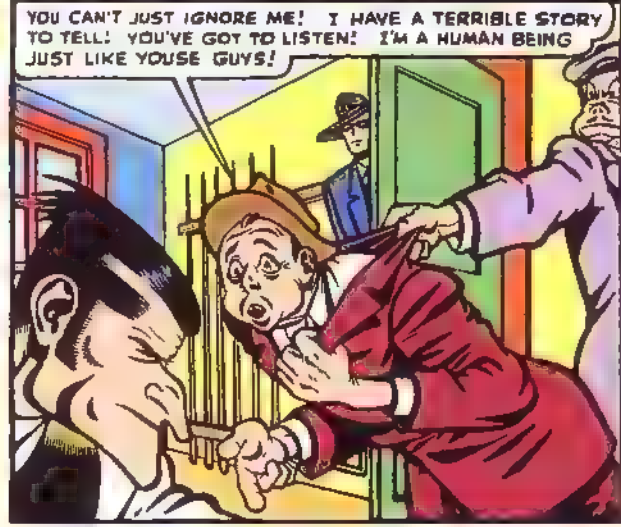
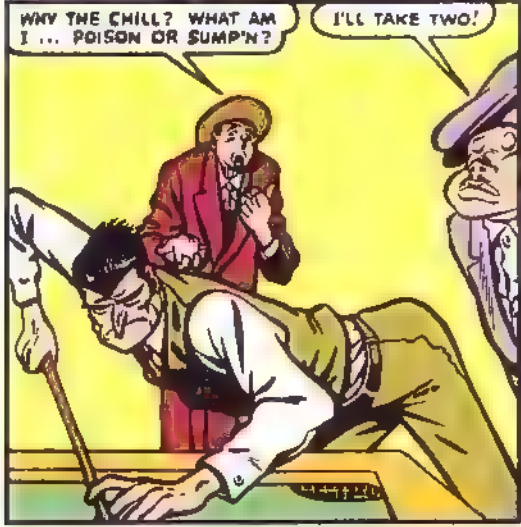
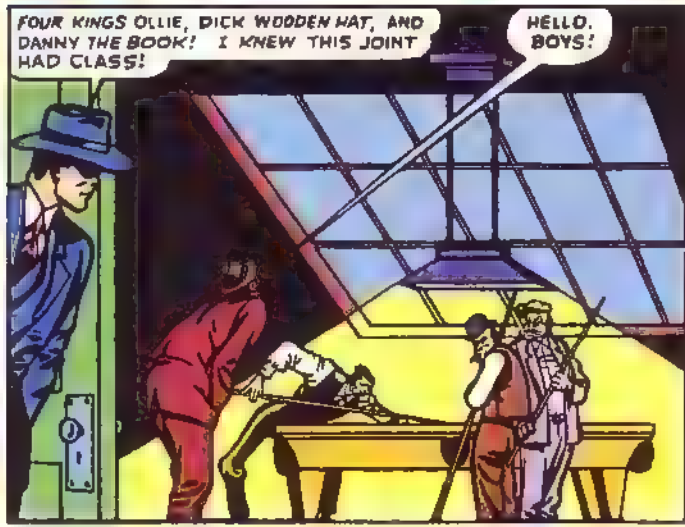
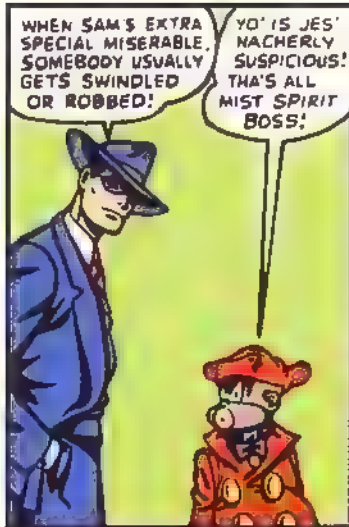






July 25, 1944



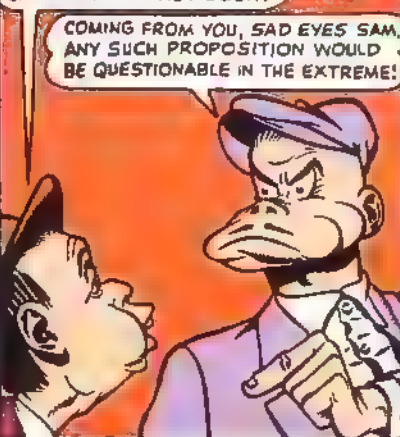




THAT IS STRICTLY A MATTER OF OPINION, WHICH NOT ONE OF US PRESENT CARES TO SHARE! PERIOD! NOW, HIT THE ROAD!



BUT IN ADDITION TO HAVING A TERRIBLE STORY TO TELL, I ALSO HAVE A PROPOSITION WHEREBY YOUSE GENTLEMEN CAN MAKE AN EASY BUCK!



COMING FROM YOU, SAD EYES SAM, ANY SUCH PROPOSITION WOULD BE QUESTIONABLE IN THE EXTREME!

--TO SAY NOTHING OF THE FACT THAT NOBODY EVER MAKES AN EASY BUCK OUT OF SAD EYES SAM'S PROPOSITIONS BUT SAD EYES SAM!



BUT THIS TIME I'VE GOT PROOF THAT YOU GET ODDS OF A THOUSAND TO ONE!

TO ME, ODDS OF A THOUSAND TO ONE IS LIKE MONEY IN THE BANK!



WE WILL, THEREFORE, EXTEND YOU THE COURTESY OF LISTENING!

TWO HOURS AGO, A CROAKER TOLD ME THAT I'VE GOT TO HAVE SOME TINKERING WITH MY INSIDES, AND I STAND ONE CHANCE IN A THOUSAND OF SURVIVING!



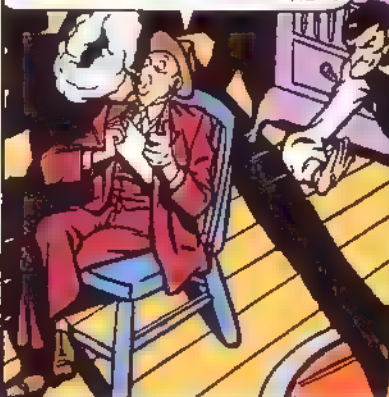
SOMEHOW THE IMMINENCE OF YOUR DEATH DOES NOT MOVE ME TO TEARS!

SO YOU'VE GOT HEARTS OF STONE! BUT YOUSE CAN SMELL AN EASY BUCK! RIGHT NOW I'M FLAT BROKE! THE SAWBONES SAID I MUST HAVE THE OPERATION WITHIN TWENTY-FOUR HOURS OR DIE IN PAIN!

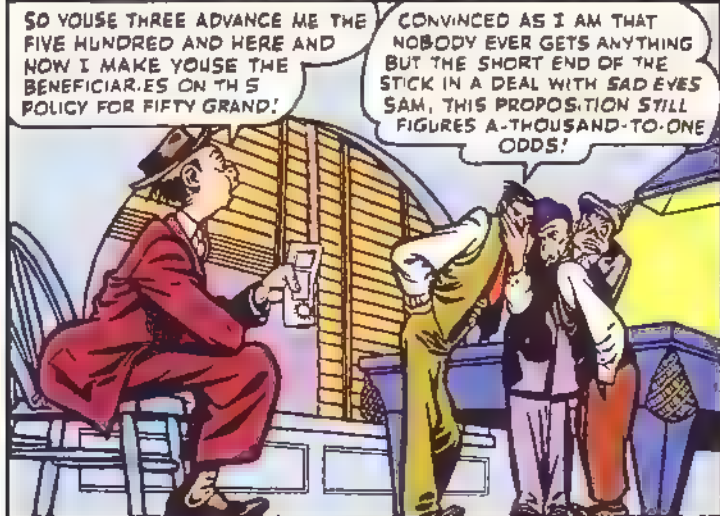


WE WOULD APPRECIATE THE FINANCIAL DETAILS OF THE PROPOSITION!

THIS IS MY LIFE INSURANCE POLICY FOR FIFTY 'G'S'. TO GET A LOAN OF FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS ON IT WOULD REQUIRE SEVERAL DAYS! THE CROAKER WANTS THAT MUCH IN ADVANCE FOR THE OPERATION!



PLEASE GIVE OUT WITH THE ANGLE WITHOUT BUILDING UP THE SUSPENSE ANY FURTHER!



SO YOUSE THREE ADVANCE ME THE FIVE HUNDRED AND HERE AND NOW I MAKE YOUSE THE BENEFICIAR.ES ON TH S POLICY FOR FIFTY GRAND!

CONVINCED AS I AM THAT NOBODY EVER GETS ANYTHING BUT THE SHORT END OF THE STICK IN A DEAL WITH SAD EYES SAM, THIS PROPOSITION STILL FIGURES A-THOUSAND-TO-ONE ODDS!



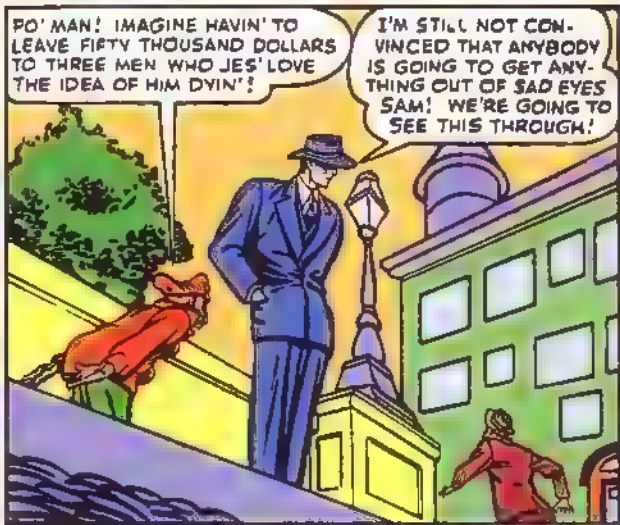
TH S MAKES UP YOUR FIVE HUNDRED!

AND HERE'S MY WRITTEN WORD THAT YOUSE ARE THE BENEFIC.ARI.ES!



WE HOPE THE PROCESS OF YOUR PASSING OUT OF THIS LIFE WILL NOT BE TOO PAINFUL!

THAT IS A KIND WISH FOR WHICH I THANK YOUSE!



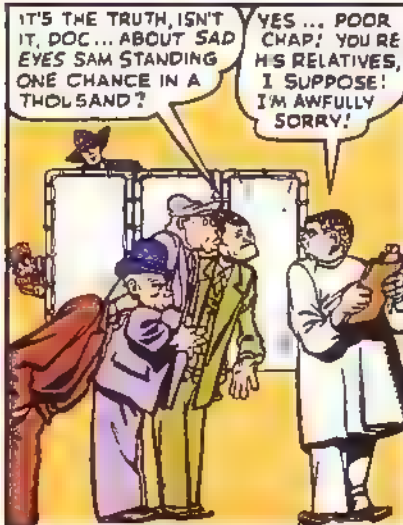
PO' MAN! IMAGINE HAVIN' TO LEAVE FIFTY THOUSAND DOLLARS TO THREE MEN WHO JES' LOVE THE IDEA OF HIM DYIN'!

I'M STILL NOT CONVINCED THAT ANYBODY IS GOING TO GET ANYTHING OUT OF SAD EYES SAM! WE'RE GOING TO SEE THIS THROUGH!



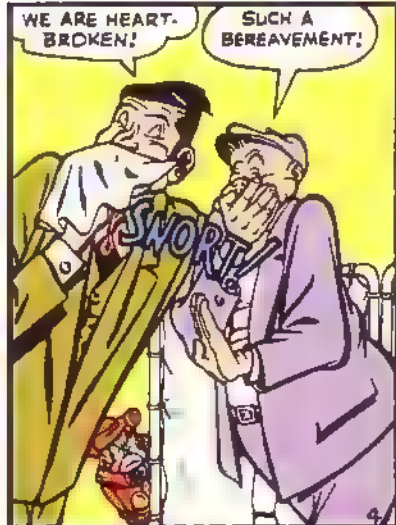
SO FAR, THIS CHECKS WITH HIS STORY!

HOSPITAL



IT'S THE TRUTH, ISN'T IT, DOC... ABOUT SAD EYES SAM STANDING ONE CHANCE IN A THOUSAND?

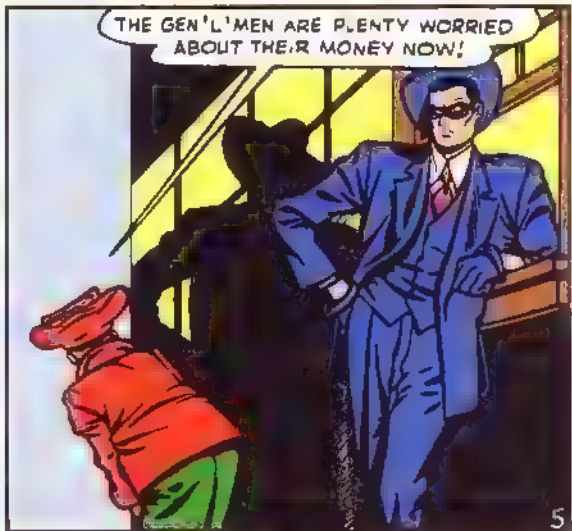
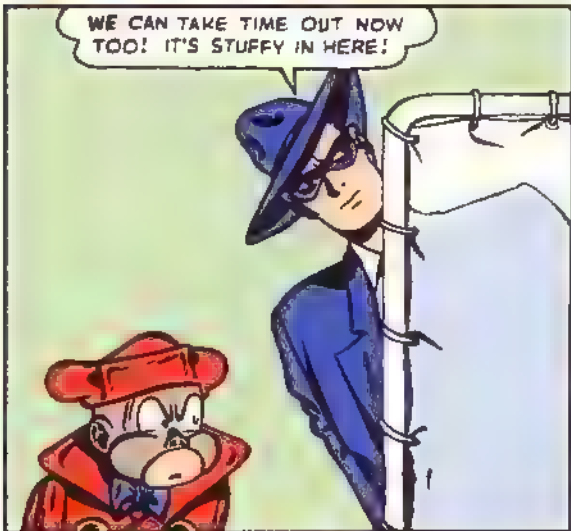
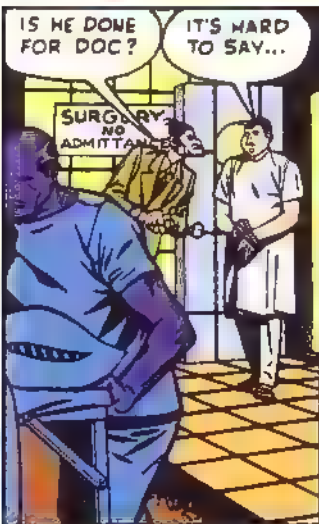
YES... POOR CHAP! YOU'RE HIS RELATIVES, I SUPPOSE! I'M AWFULLY SORRY!

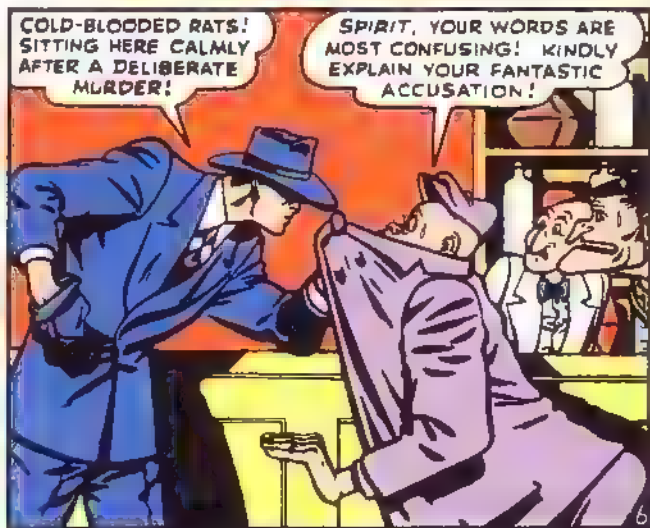
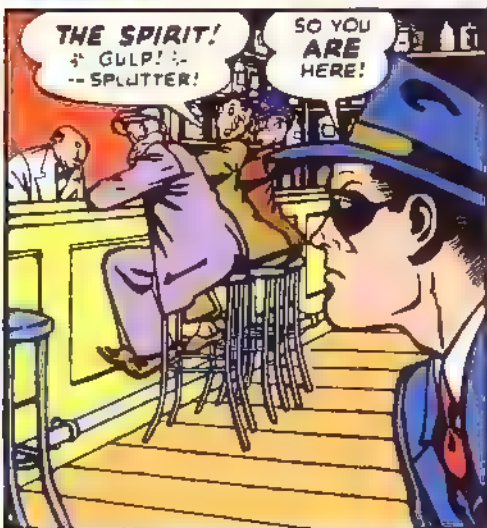
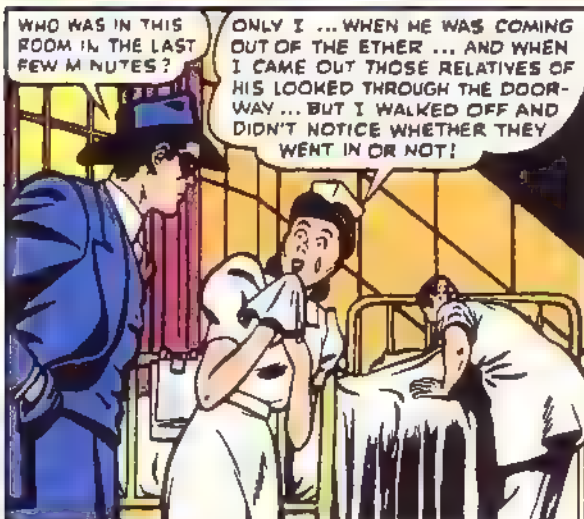
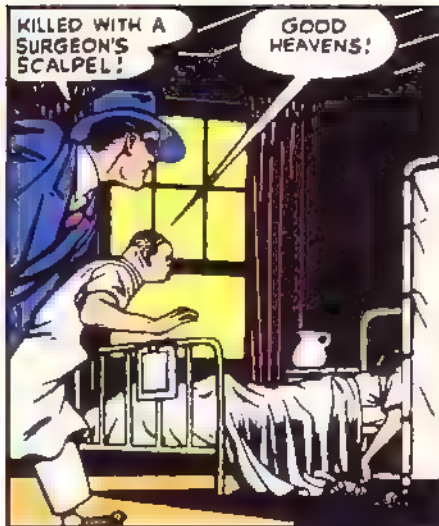
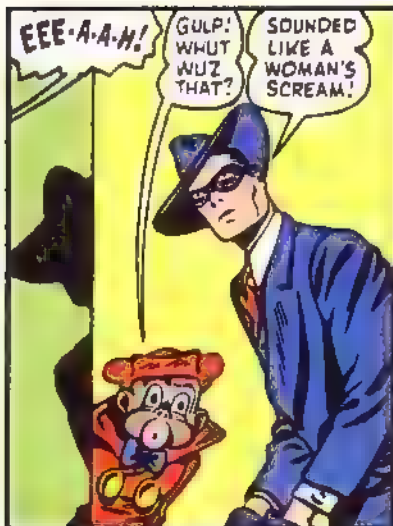


WE ARE HEART-BROKEN!

SUCH A BEREAVEMENT!









AFTER I WORK OFF MY FURY!  
I CAN'T STAND PEOPLE WHO'LL  
STOP AT NOTHING FOR MONEY!



AS SOON AS YOU HEARD THERE  
WAS A CHANCE FOR SAD EYES  
TO SURVIVE, YOU DECIDED TO  
MAKE SURE HE WOULDN'T!

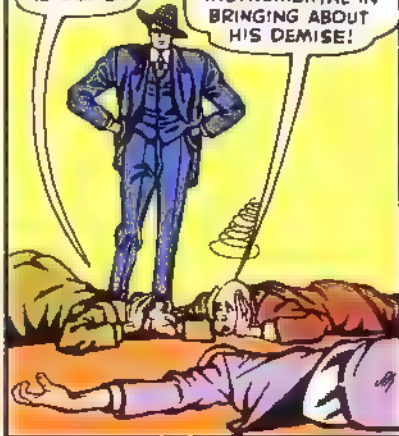


THERE! I FEEL  
BETTER ALREADY!



I GATHER FROM  
ALL THIS THAT  
SAD EYES SAM  
IS DEAD!

THERE HAS ALSO  
BEEN A SUGGESTION  
THAT WE WERE  
INSTRUMENTAL IN  
BRINGING ABOUT  
HIS DEMISE!

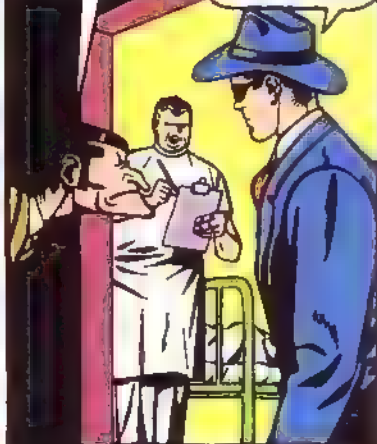


GET BACK IN THERE! I  
CAN SEW UP ALL THE EVIDENCE  
AGAINST YOU IN A FEW  
MINUTES!



IT'S TRUE! HE  
WAS MURDERED!

THAT ACT WON'T  
HELP, FOUR  
KINGS OLLIE!



YOU SEE, DOCTOR... I'VE BEEN  
FOLLOWING THESE LADS! THEY HAD A  
LITTLE BET ON WITH SAD EYES SAM AND  
THEY WEREN'T PLANNING TO LOSE!  
TAKE A LOOK AT THIS POLICY!



THIS CHANGE IN THE BENEFICIARIES IS MOST UNUSUAL!  
I ASSUME THAT IN CONSIDERATION THEY ADVANCED THE  
DECEASED A SUM OF MONEY... BUT  
IT WAS REALLY UNNECESSARY TO  
MURDER HIM!

WHAT DO  
YOU MEAN?



WELL, I DIDN'T WANT TO SHOCK THEM WHEN THEY ASKED ME ABOUT THE PATIENT'S CONDITION AFTER THE OPERATION, AND THEY DIDN'T GIVE ME A CHANCE TO GO INTO DETAIL... BUT...



I KNEW AFTER THE OPERATION THAT THE PATIENT WOULD HAVE ABOUT ONE DAY TO LIVE! I TOLD THE NURSES AS MUCH!



AND I TOLD THE PATIENT WHEN HE CAME OUT OF THE ETHER... BUT ONLY BECAUSE HE BEGGED ME!



BUT ISN'T ACCUSING THESE FELLOWS A LITTLE FARFETCHED? THE PATIENT WAS KILLED WITH ONE OF OUR SURGERY SCALPES... AND THEY COULDN'T HAVE HAD ACCESS TO ONE!



HMM... AS A MATTER OF FACT EXCEPT FOR YOU AND THE NURSES, THE ONLY ONE WHO MIGHT HAVE BEEN NEAR A SCALPEL WAS SAD EYES HIMSELF!

WAIT! LET ME HAVE ANOTHER LOOK AT THAT POLICY!



HMM! LEAVE IT TO SAD EYES! THIS WOULD BE HIS IDEA OF A VERY GOOD JOKE!



THE SPIRIT FINDS SOMETHING VERY AMUSING AT A VERY ODD TIME!

BOYS, SAD EYES SAM'S RECORD STILL STANDS! NOBODY HAS EVER BENEFITED FROM A PROPOSITION HE MADE THEM! LISTEN... IN THE EVENT OF THE **SUICIDE** OF THE INSURED, THIS POLICY BECOMES **VOID** AND **NO PAYMENT WILL BE MADE!**



GET IT? SAD EYES MUST HAVE SWIPED A SCALPEL IN THE OPERATING ROOM SO THAT, IN THE EVENT HE FOUND OUT HE WOULDN'T LIVE, HE COULD KILL HIMSELF WITH HIS OWN HAND AND DO YOU KIDDIES OUT OF THE FIFTY THOUSAND!



I KNEW IT! I KNEW IT! I SAID NOBODY COULD WIN FROM SAD EYES SAM! EVEN HIS DEATH COSTS US FIVE HUNDRED BUCKS!



LET US SERIOUSLY CONTEMPLATE SUICIDE TOO!



COMIC  
BOOK  
SECTION

THE CASE OF THE MURDERING  
TIGER

July 2, 1944

ACTION  
Mystery  
ADVENTURE

THE

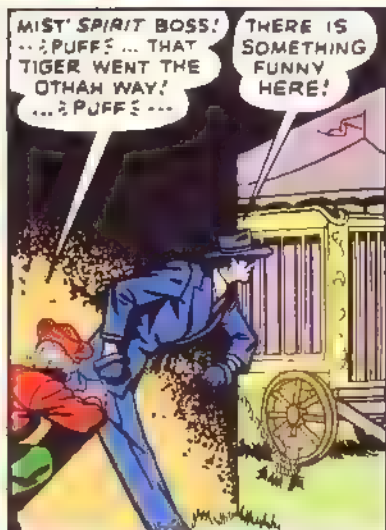
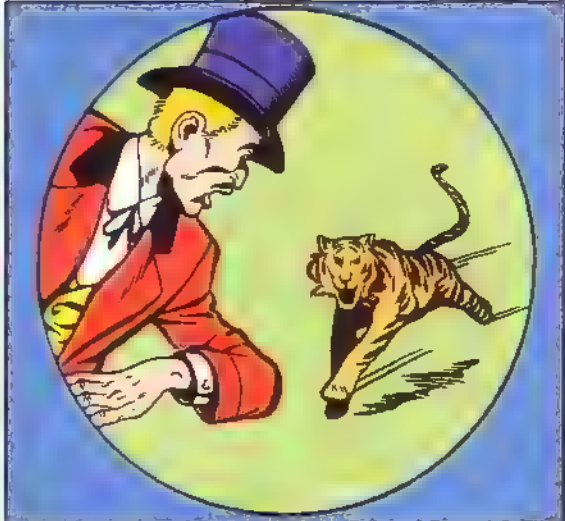
# SPIRIT

by  
Will  
Eisner

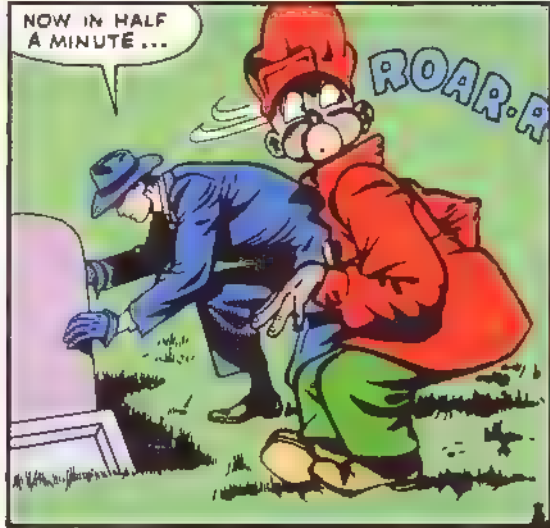
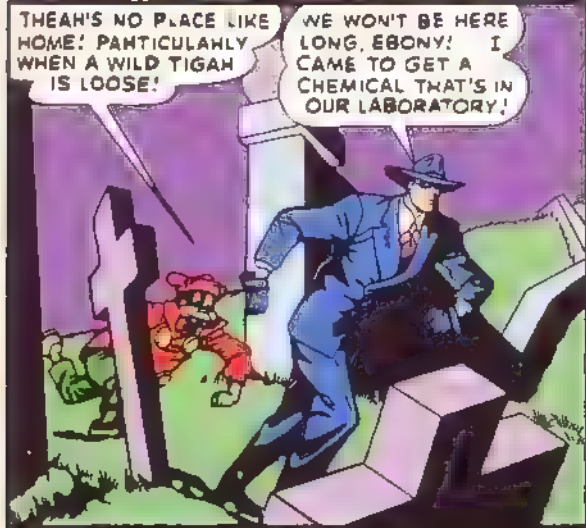
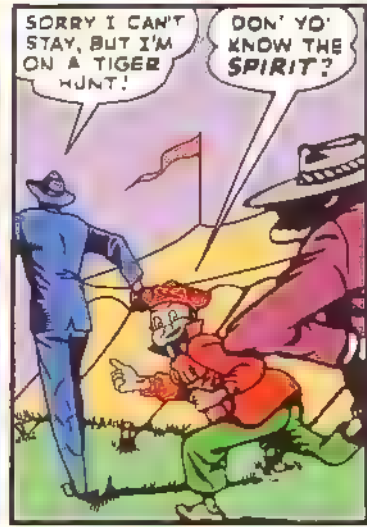
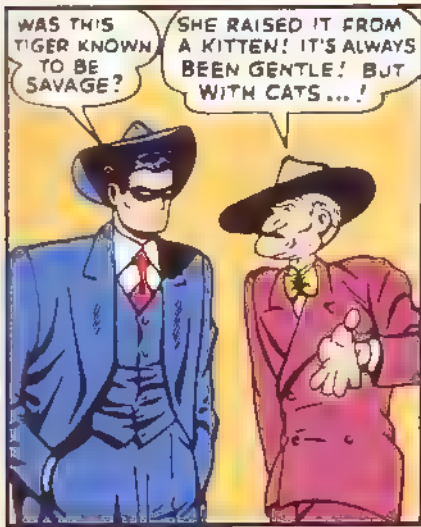
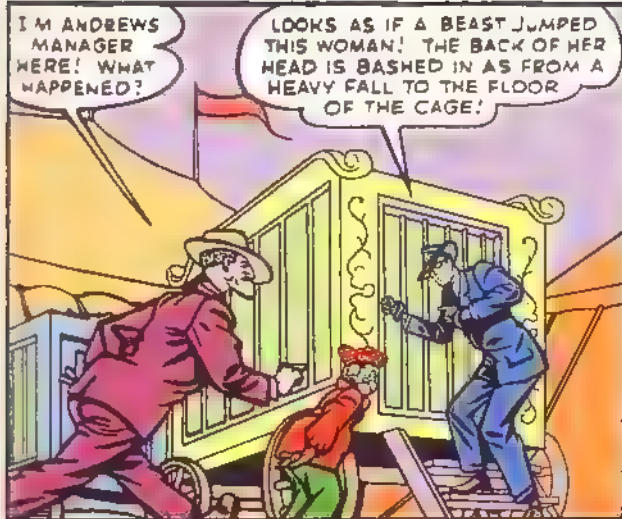
HURRY! HURRY! ... SEE TH' GREAT  
SENSATIONAL **SPIRIT** IN TH' CASE OF  
TH' **MURDERIN' TIGAH!** ... IT'S  
STOOPENDOUS! DON' WASTE A  
MINUTE, FOLKS! **HURRY!** ...  
THE SHOW IS ABOUT  
TO BEGIN ...

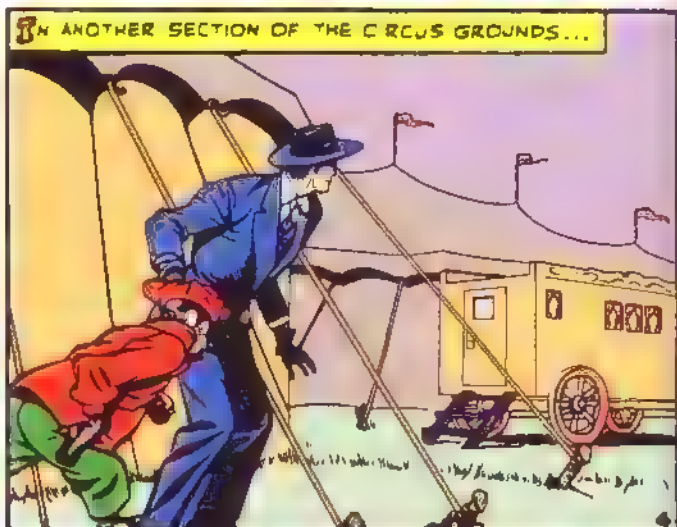
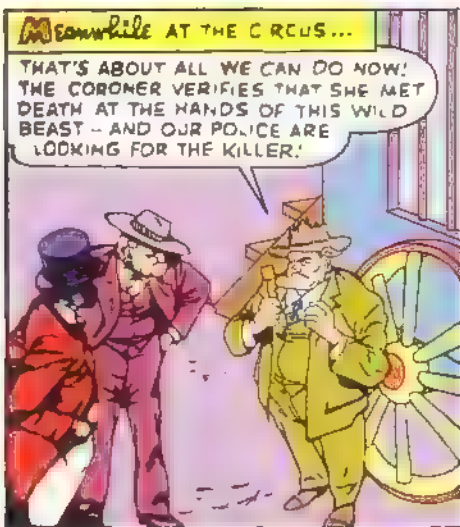
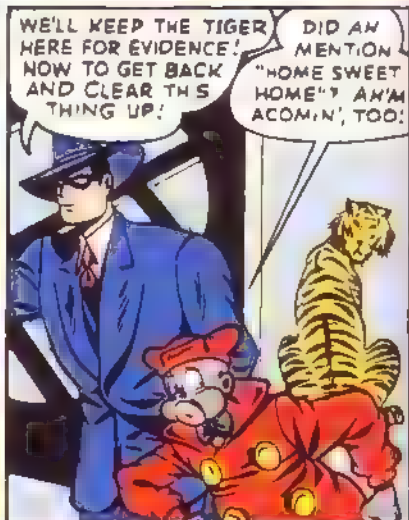


LADIES AND GENTLEMEN... AURORA, THE TIGER LADY!... WATCH HER IN THE DEATH-DEFYING ACT WITH A WILD **BENGAL TIGER**! WATCH HER...  
... WHA --?

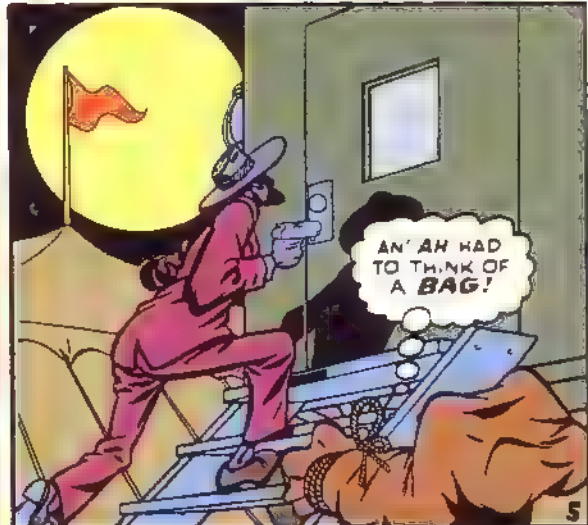
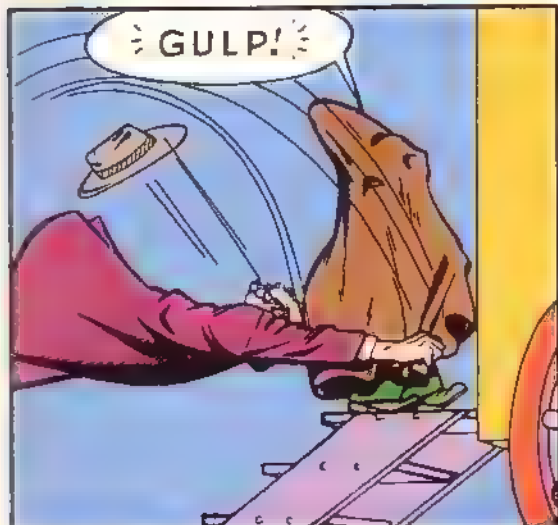
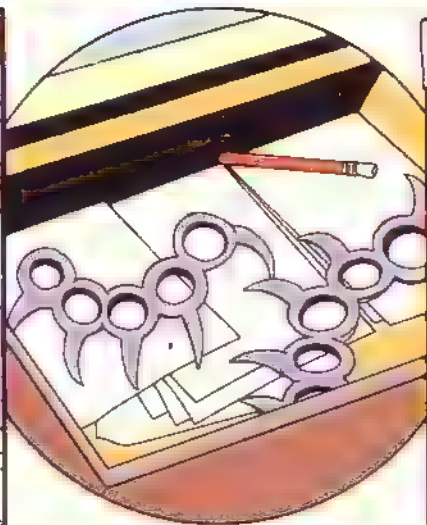
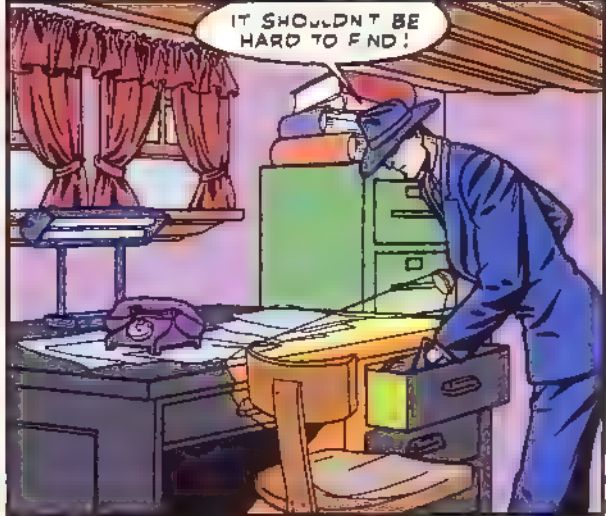
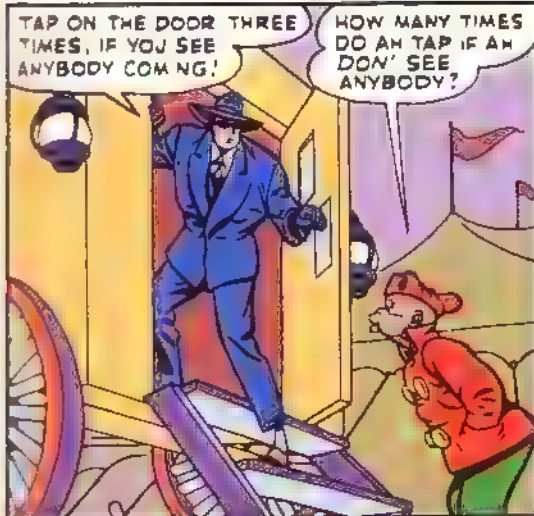


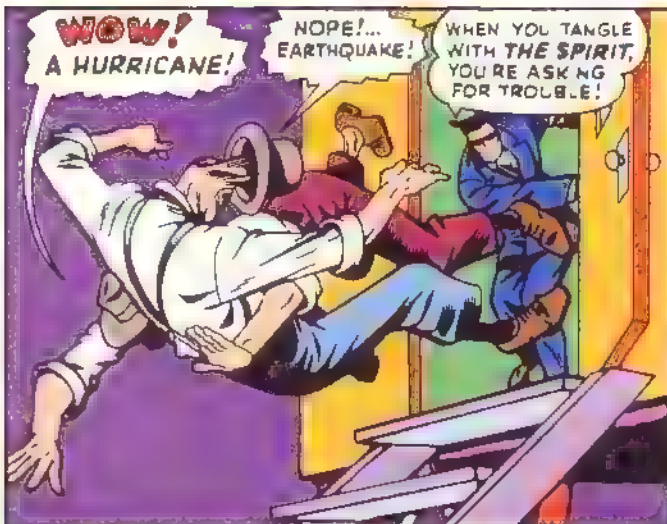






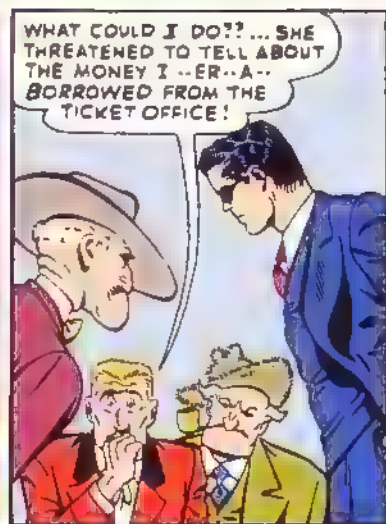
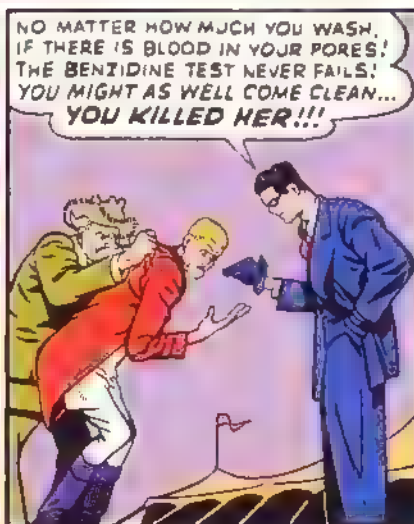
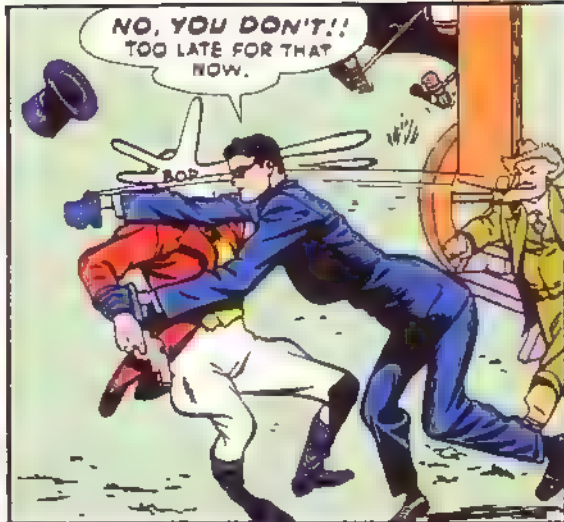












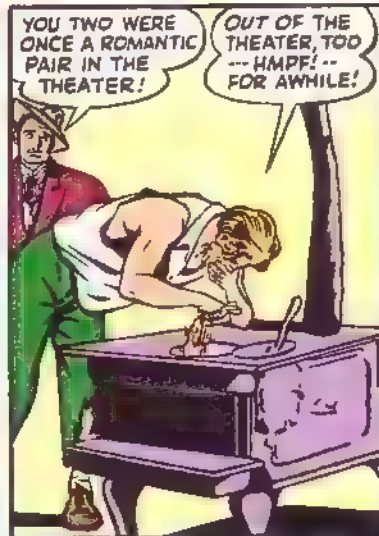
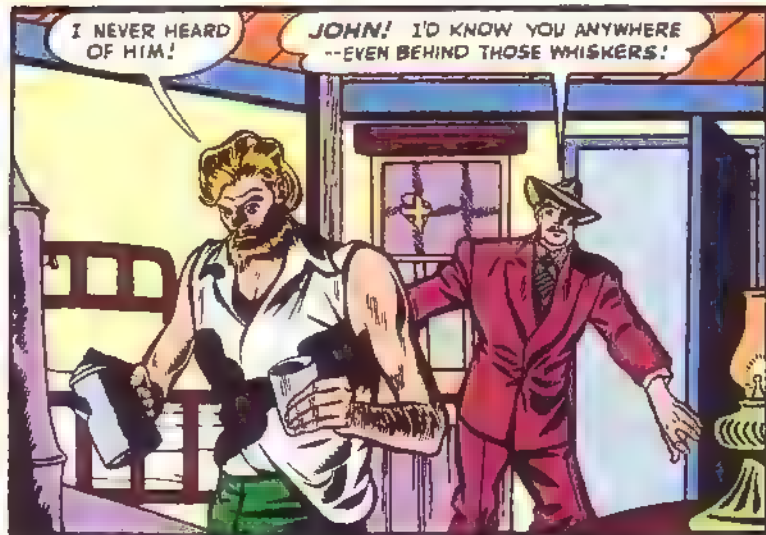


# THE SPIRIT

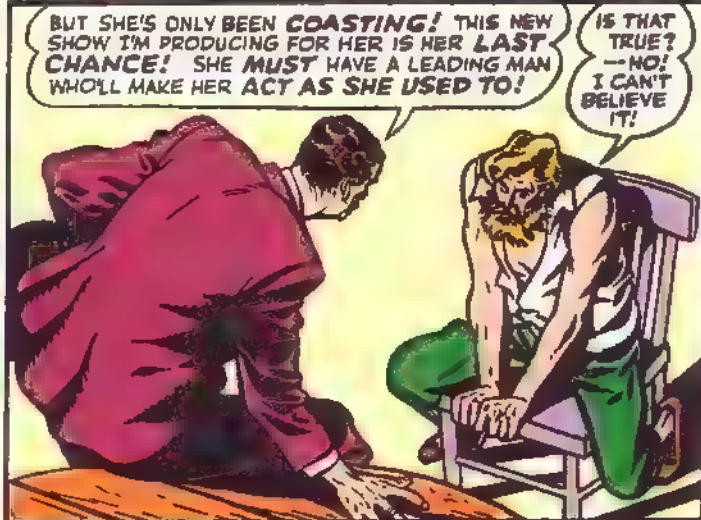
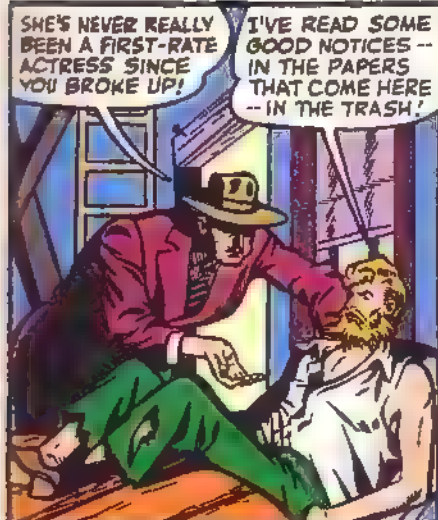
**A**CROSS THE RIVER FROM CENTRAL CITY LIE THE CITY DUMPS... WHERE LIFE'S TIRED AND WEARY AND BROKEN RUBBLE RESTS DISCARDED AND UNWANTED IN LONELY DETERIORATION! IT IS STRANGE, THEN, THAT IN THE GREY HOURS OF THE MORNING, A SLEEK SEDAN COUGHS TO A HALT AT THIS FORSAKEN SPOT... AND A WELL-DRESSED MAN STEPS OUT.....

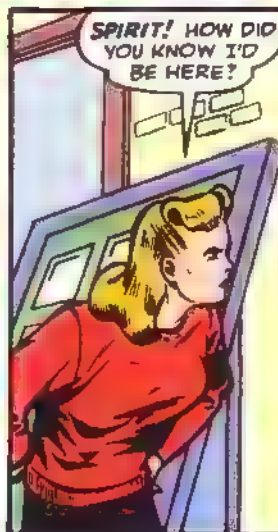
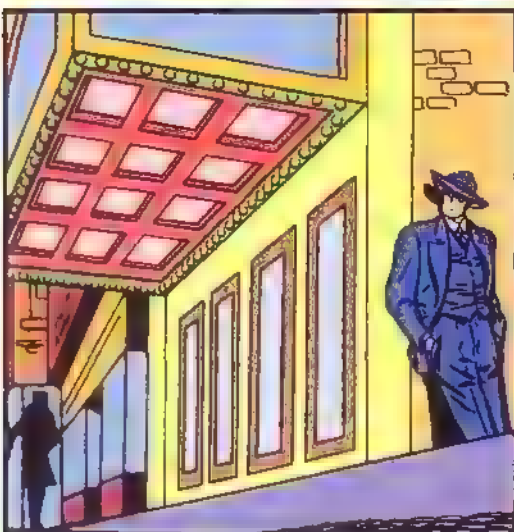
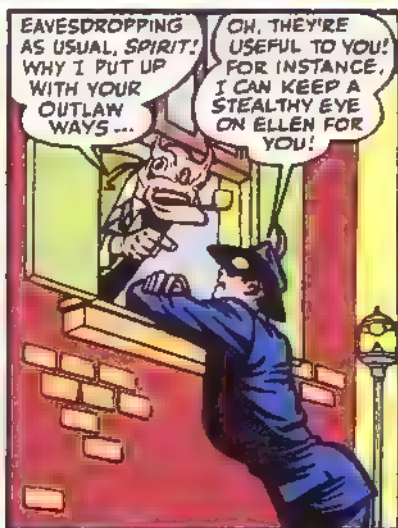
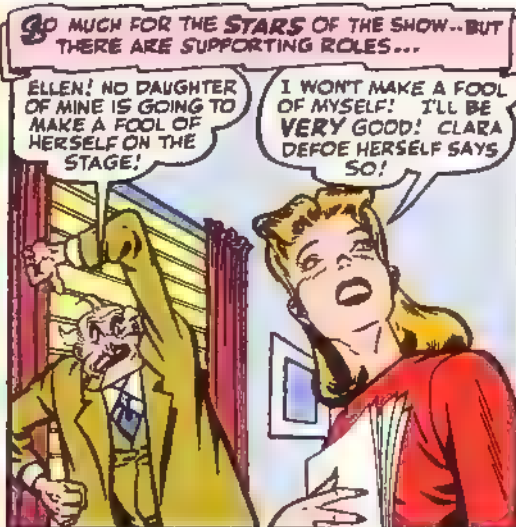
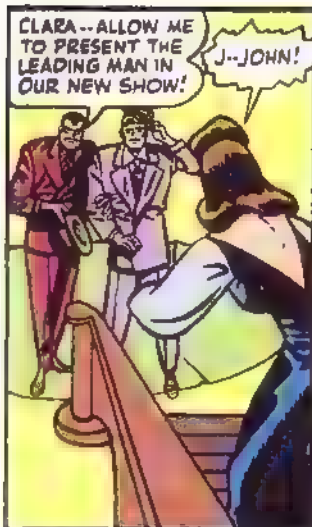
IF IT WAS A STAGE SET, I'D CALL IT **UNCONVINCING!**... THE PRIVATE DETECTIVES SWEAR THAT HE LIVES IN THAT SHACK---



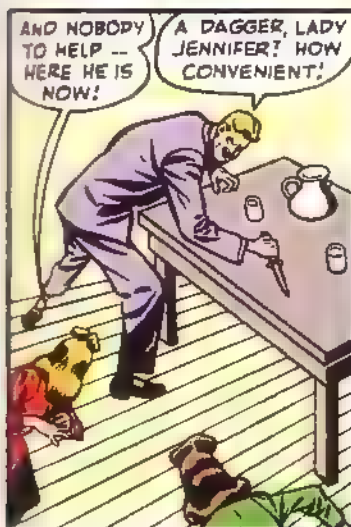
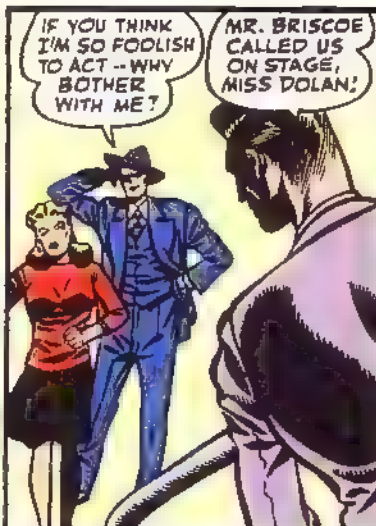


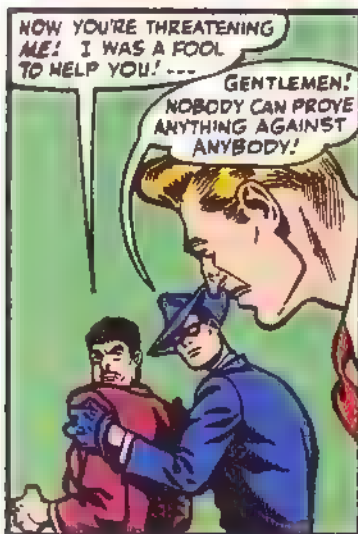




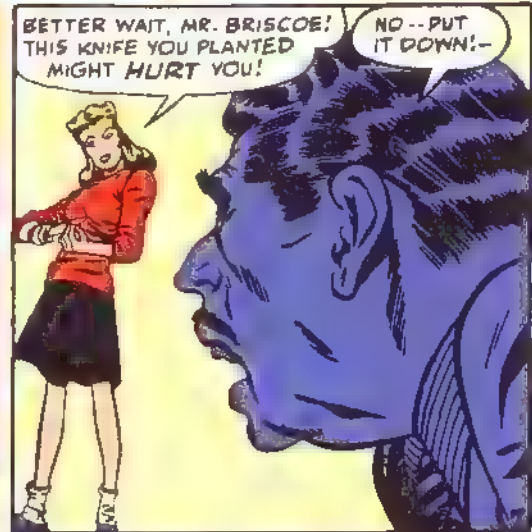
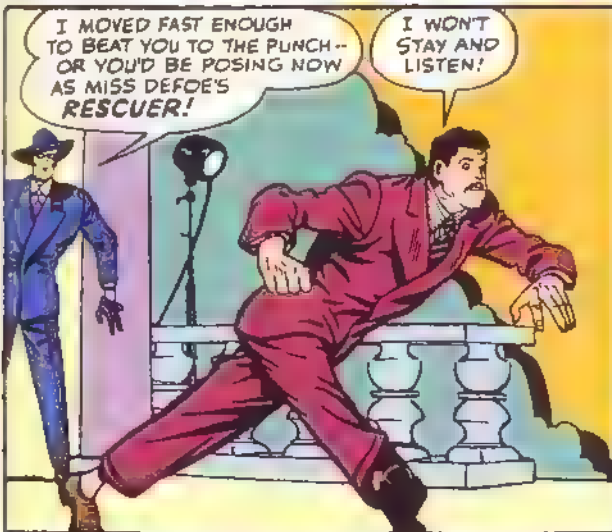
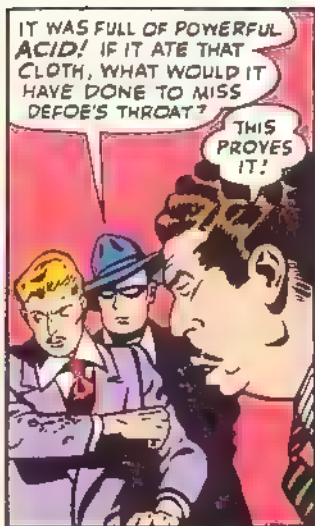


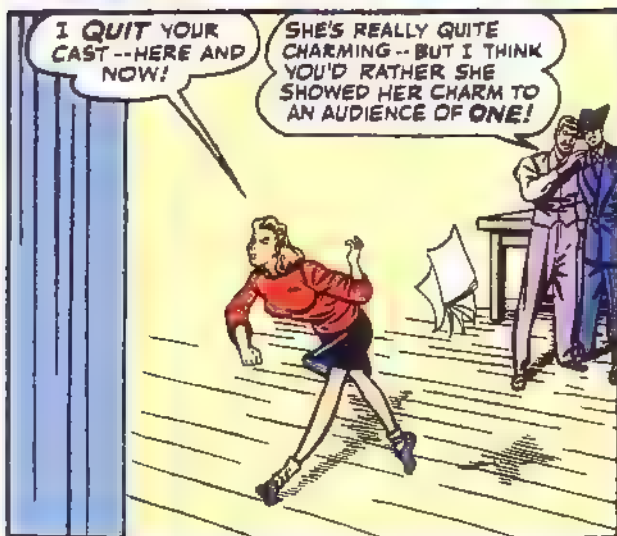
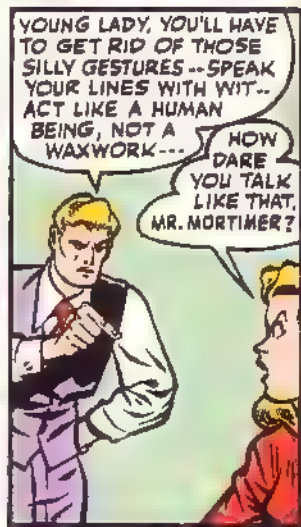
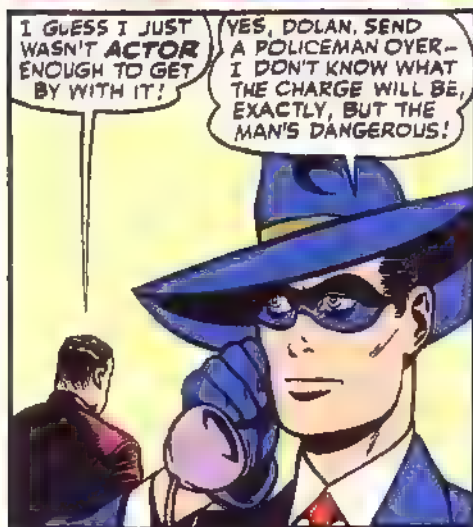
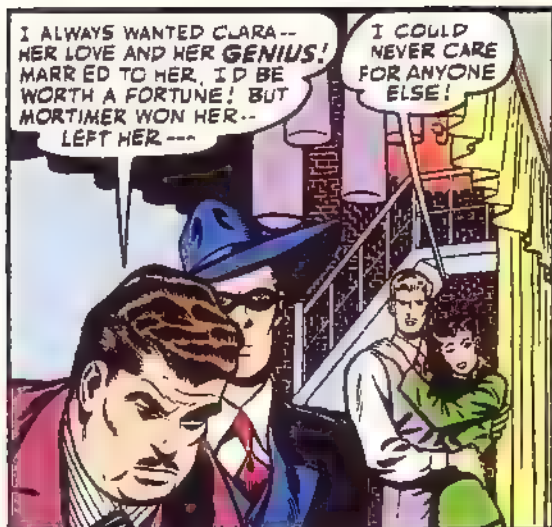














COMIC  
BOOK  
SECTION

THE TREASURE OF THE  
S.S. JACKSON

July 16, 1944

ACTION  
Mystery  
ADVENTURE

# THE SPIRIT

**B**YOND Central City, along marshy shorelines where honest ships are not seen these days, a rakish black craft anchors at dead of night...

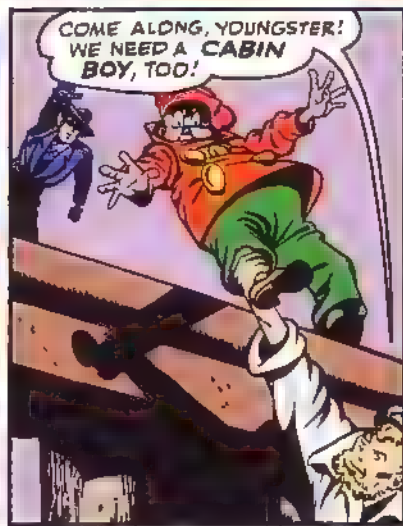
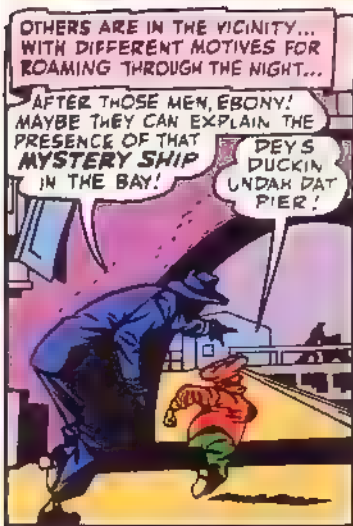
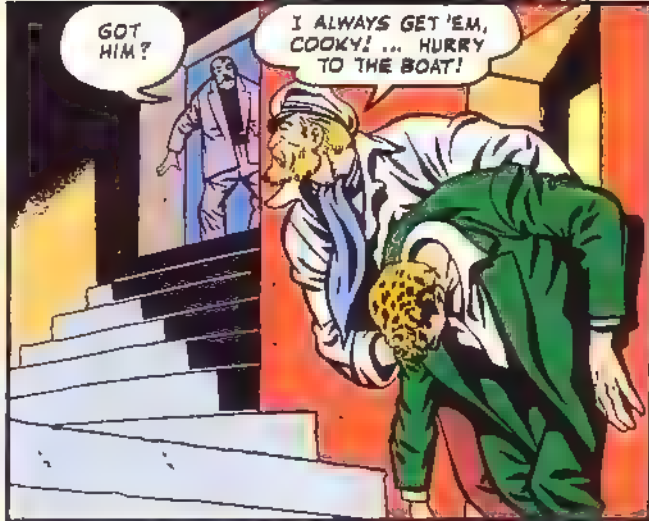
by  
Will  
Eisner.

And in a lonely waterfront dram-house...

BUT WE **MUST** HAVE  
ONE MORE HAND ABOARD  
WHEN WE SAIL! WILL  
YOU COME FOR  
TRIPLE WAGES?

NOT FOR ANY WAGES, DILKS!  
THESE DAYS I TAKE MY  
SAILING ORDERS FROM THE  
UNITED STATES  
MARITIME SERVICE!







WE GOT THE MEN WE NEED FOR  
OUR CREW, WANDELL! HAD TO  
CRACK THE SKULL OF A SWAB  
WHO SWAM AFTER US!



UP ANCHOR!  
LET'S GET AWAY  
WITH THE TIDE!



THE SHIP OF MYSTERY DEPARTS ... JUST AS A  
DESPAIRING HAND MAKES A LAST FRANTIC EFFORT...



YOU'S DE  
COOK.  
HUH?

AM COOK! NOW  
I MAKE FINE  
LATE SUPPER!



STEAK! FRENCH  
FRIES! COFFEE!  
MM-MMM! THIS  
SHIP FEEDS  
GOOD!



TAKE TO CABIN  
FOR MISTERS DILKS  
AND WANDELL! I  
FIX OUR SUPPER  
NEXT!



THEY'S DIGGIN' INTO THOSE  
EATS! KIN I HAVE SOME  
KETCHUP WIF  
MAH SUPPAN?



CORRECTION!  
THIS STEAK  
FOR ME!

CABIN BOY  
GET BREAD  
AND WATER!

SAY, WHEN  
MIST' SPIRIT  
BOSS COMES  
ALONG---



TALK FOOLISH!  
SPIRIT IS DEAD!  
--I KILL HIM  
MYSELF!

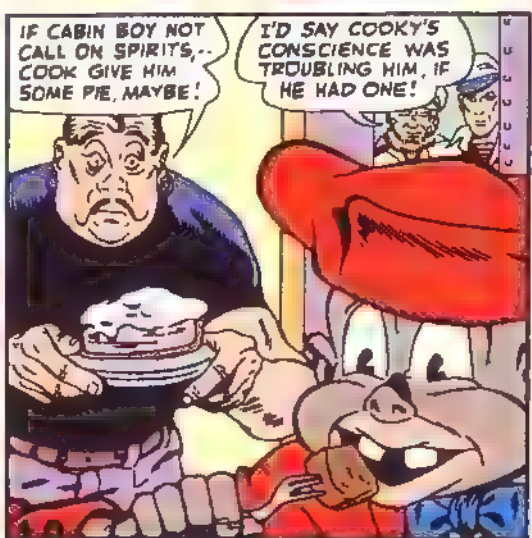
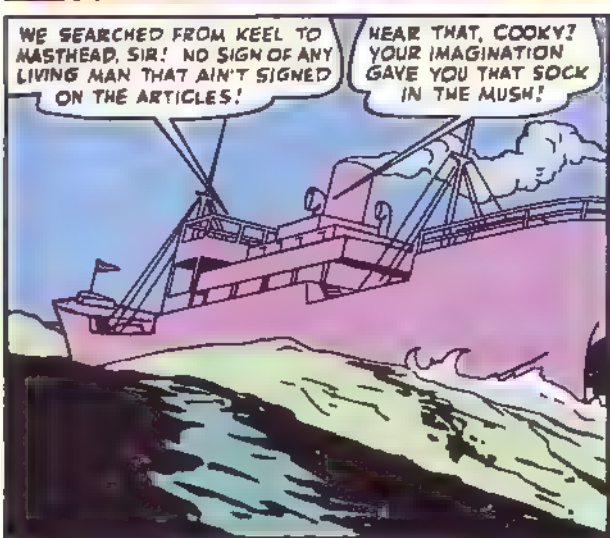
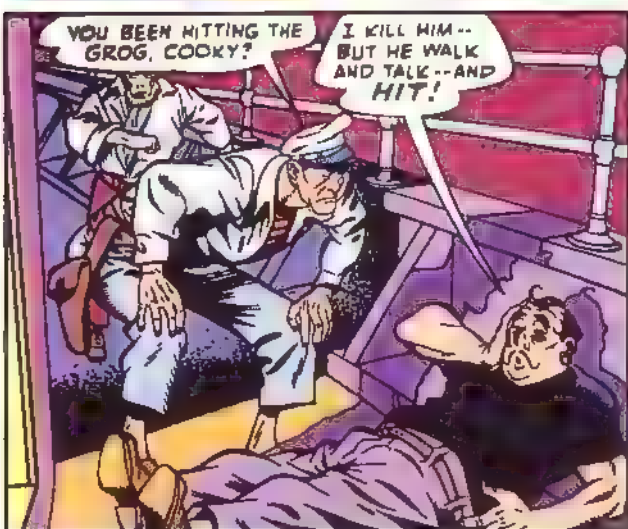


ARE YOU SURE,  
COOKY?

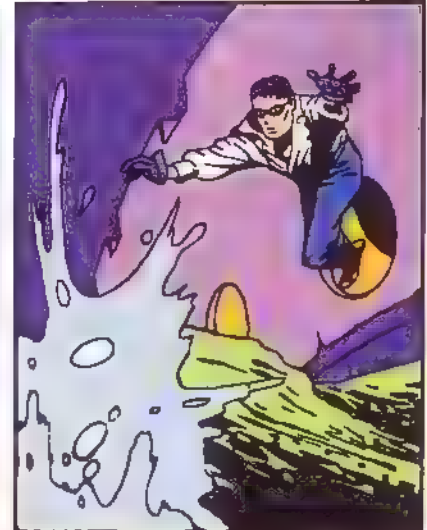
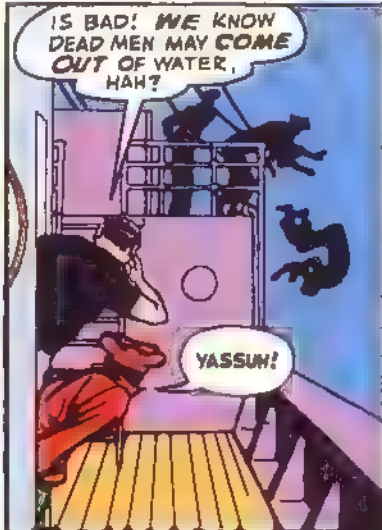
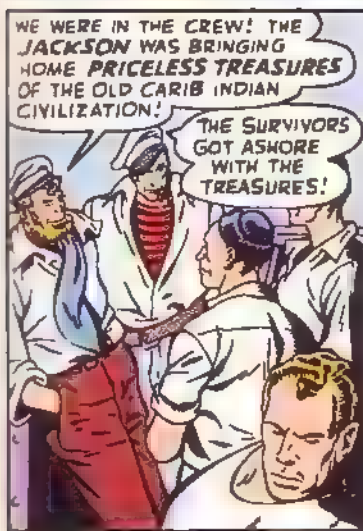
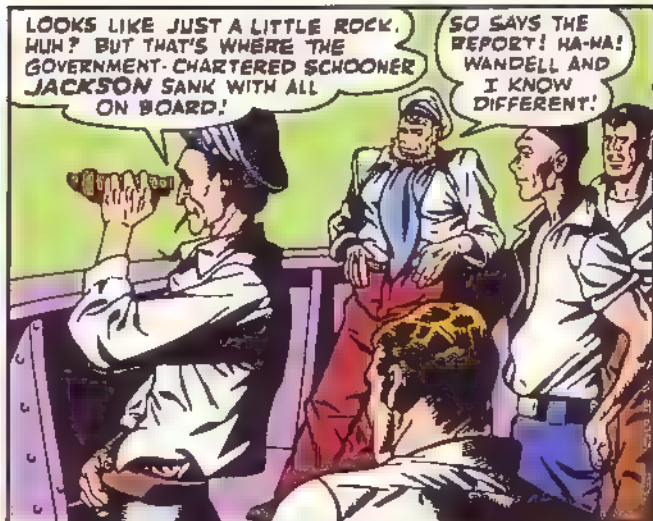


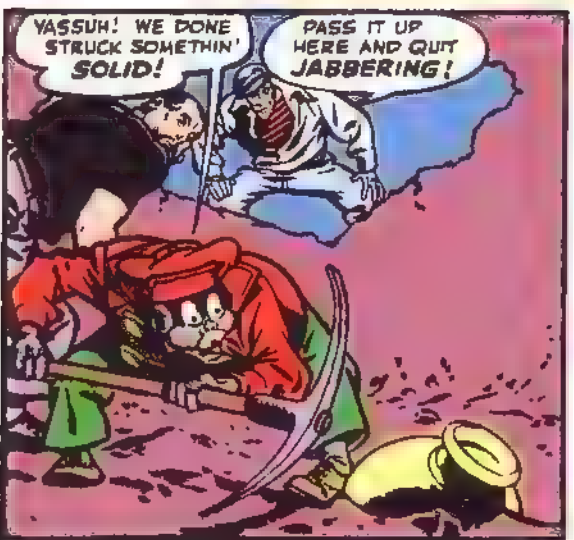
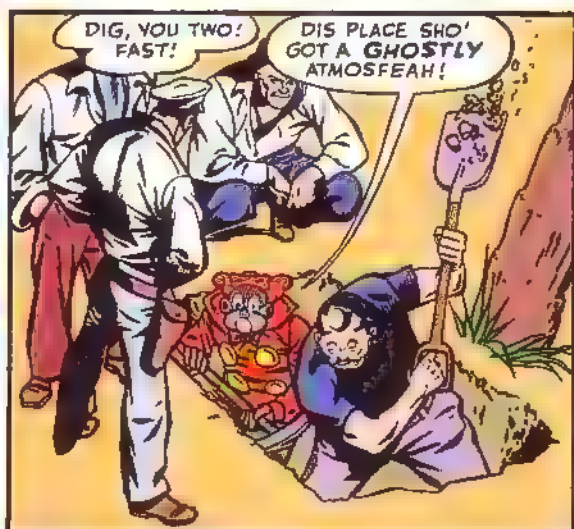
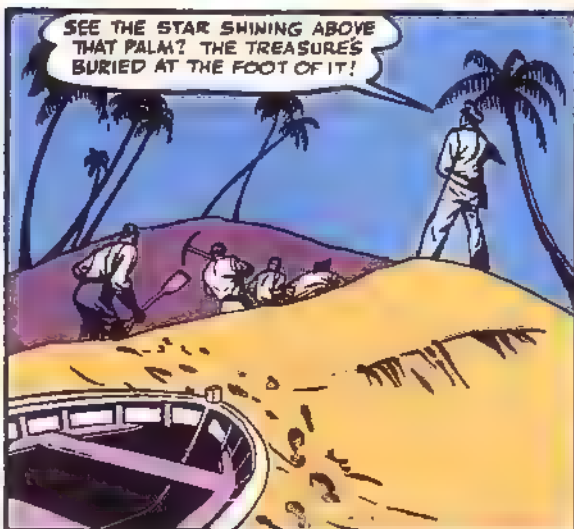
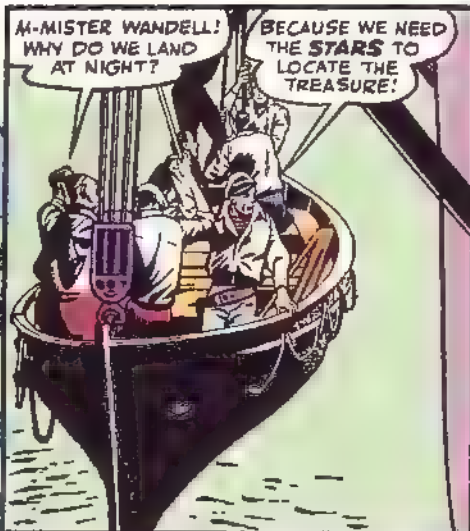
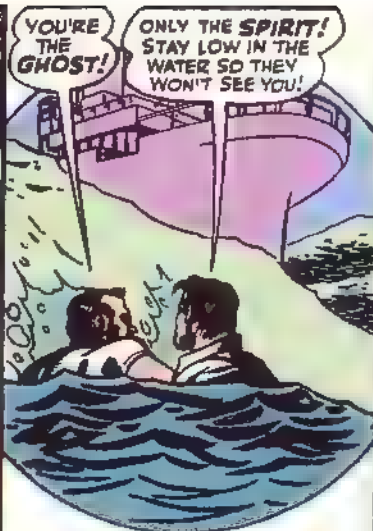
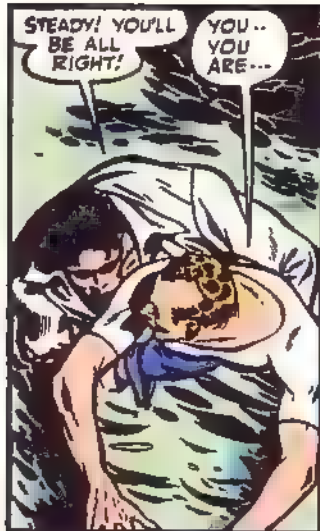
DON'T STAND THERE  
STARING! GIVE EBONY  
SOME DECENT FOOD!



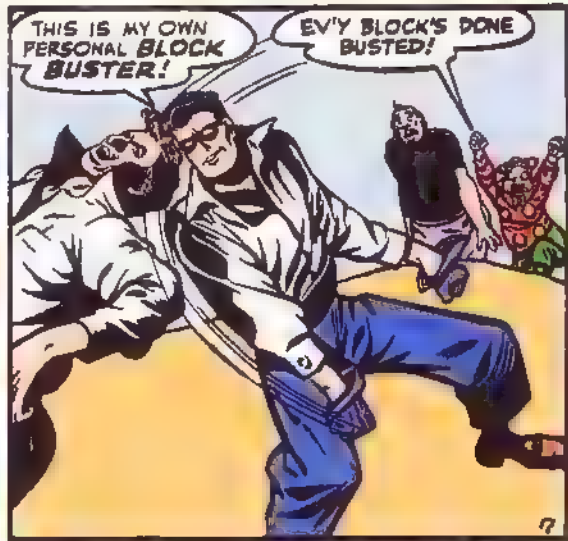
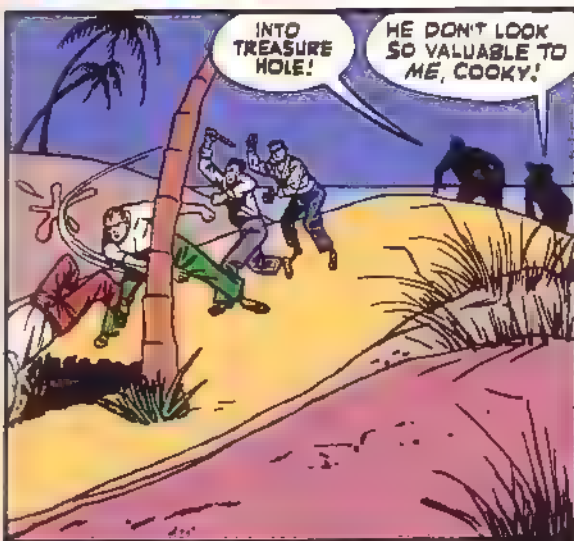
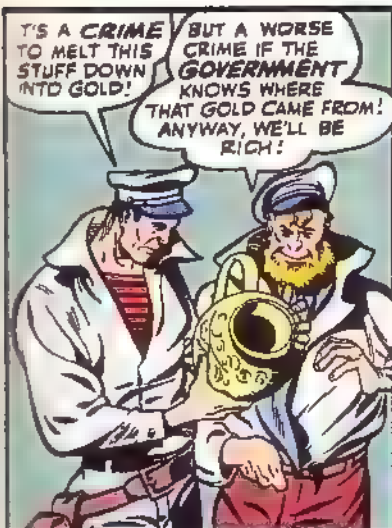


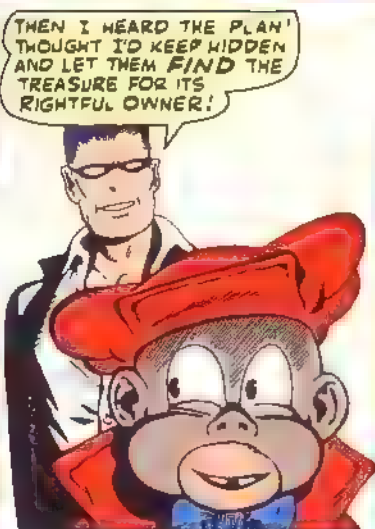
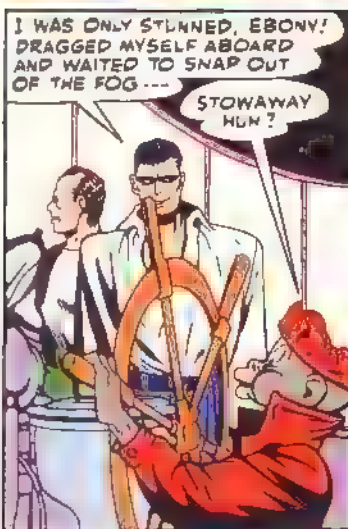
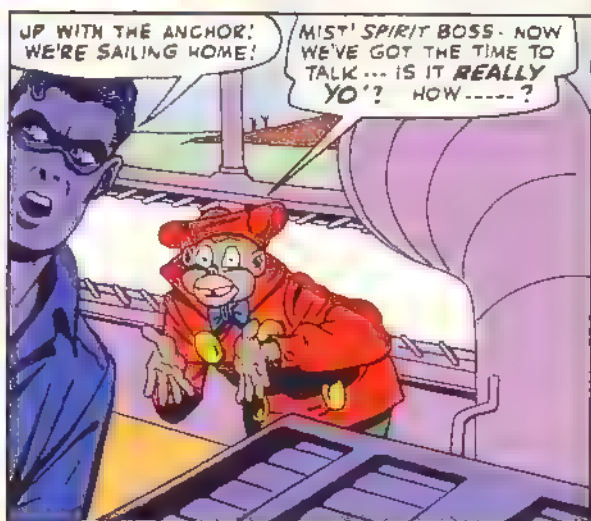
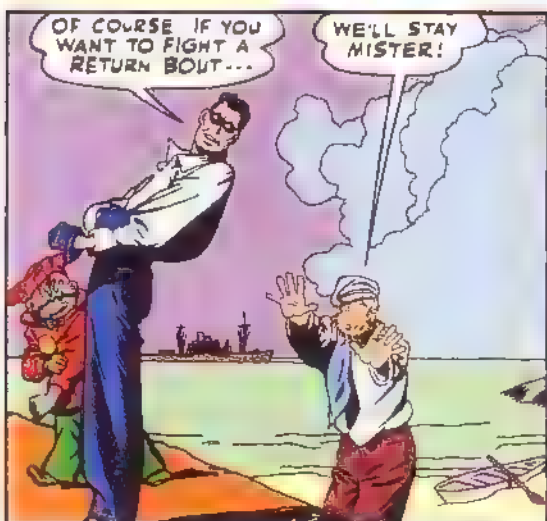




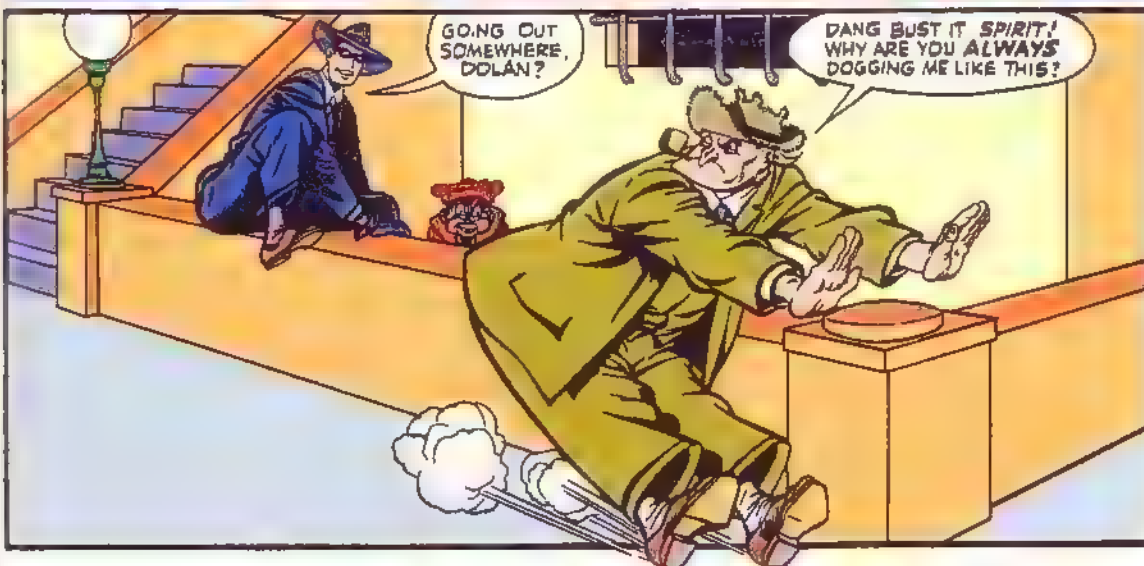


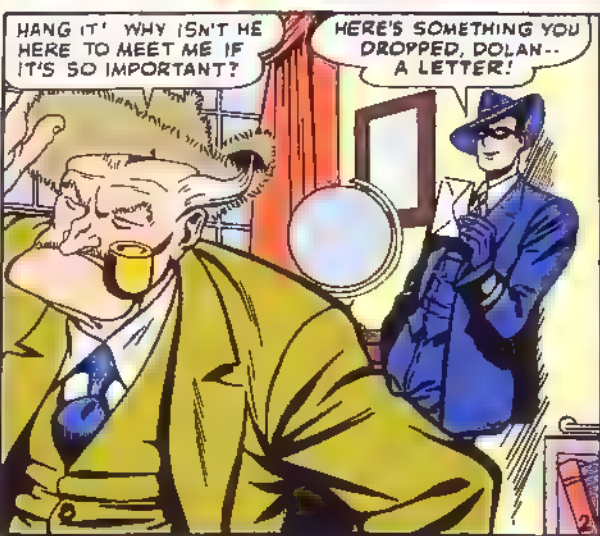
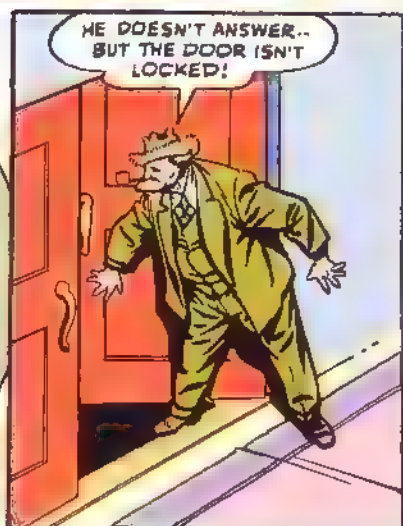
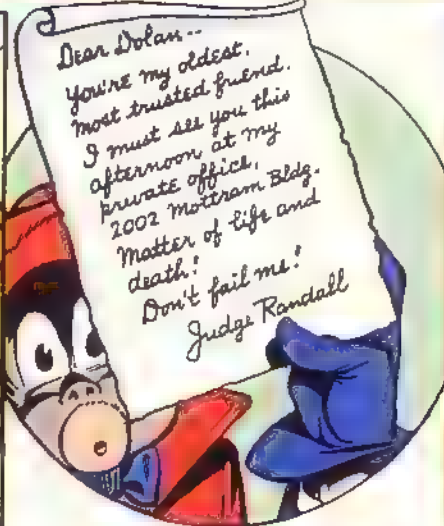
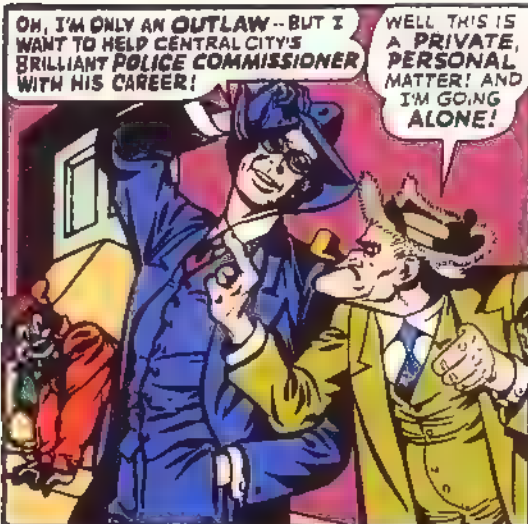




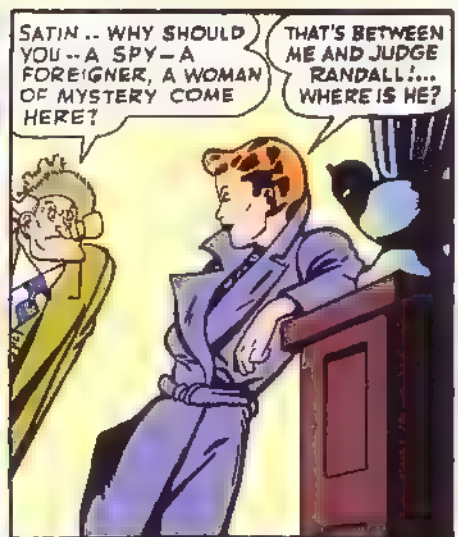
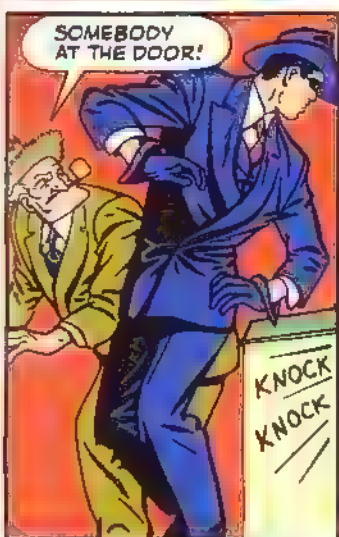
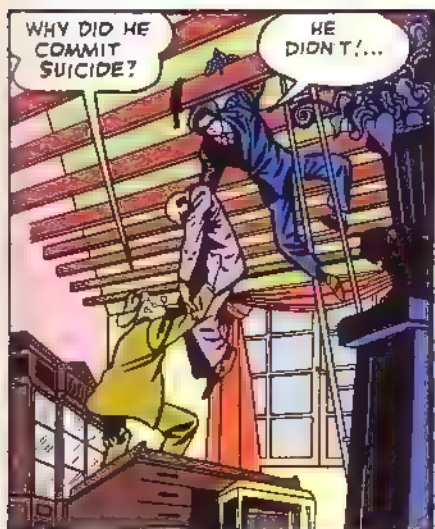
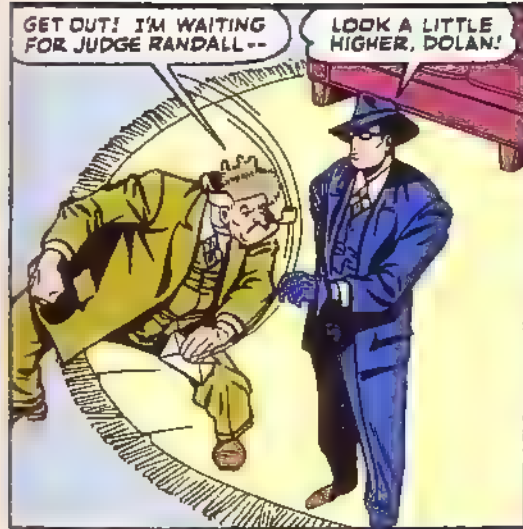


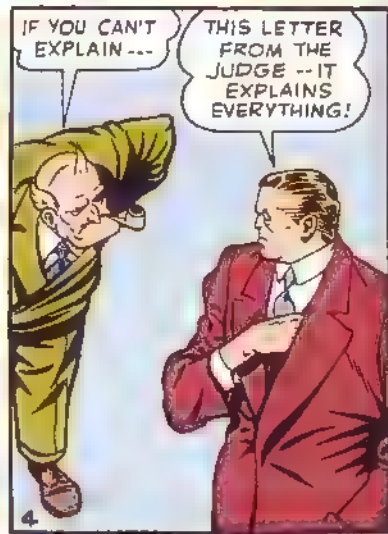
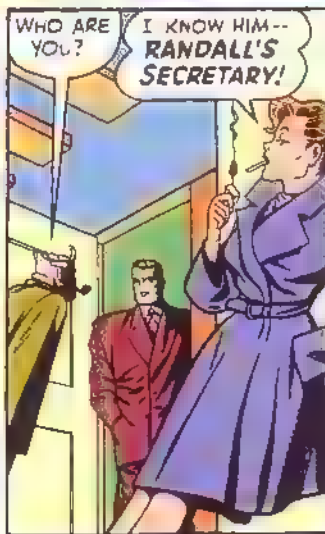
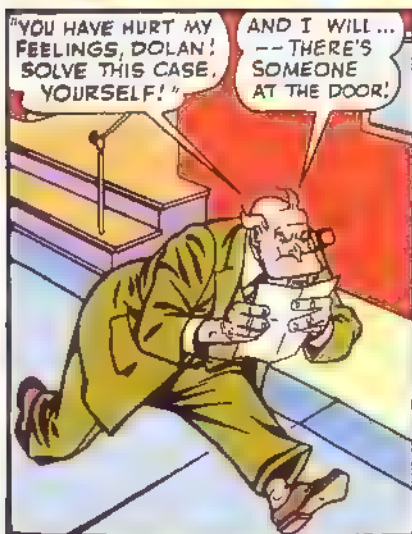
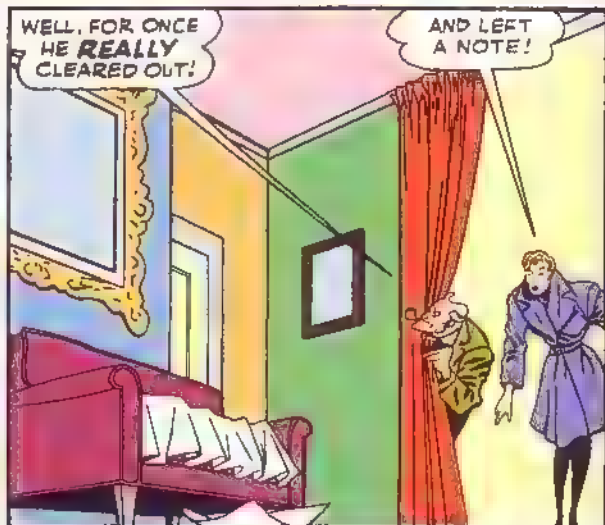
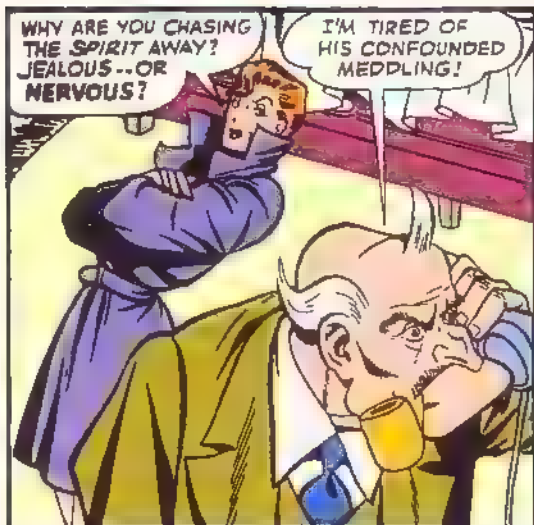
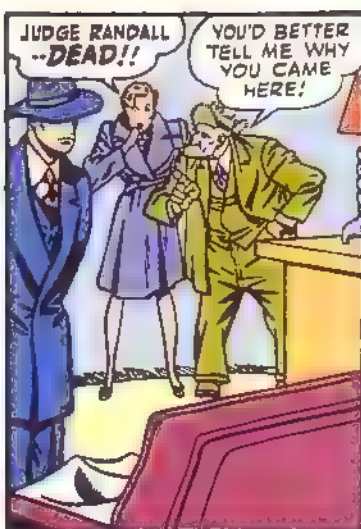




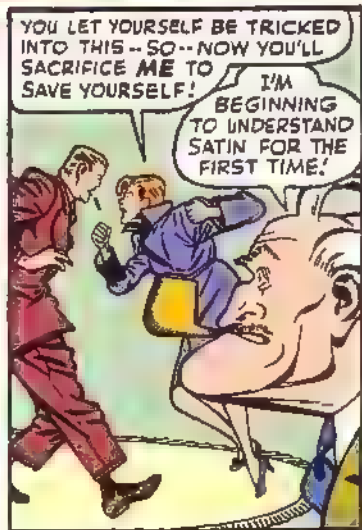
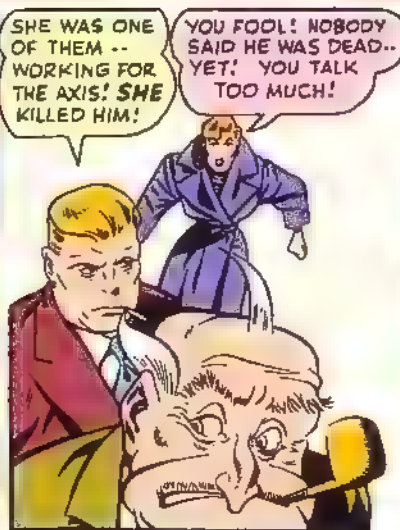
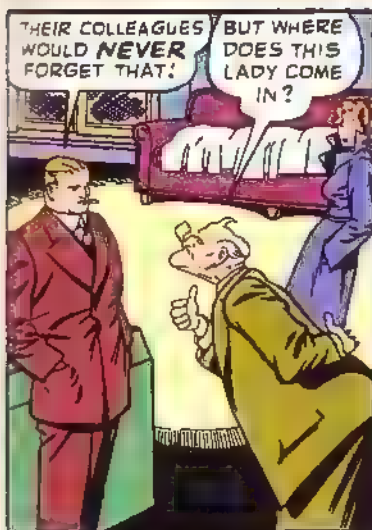
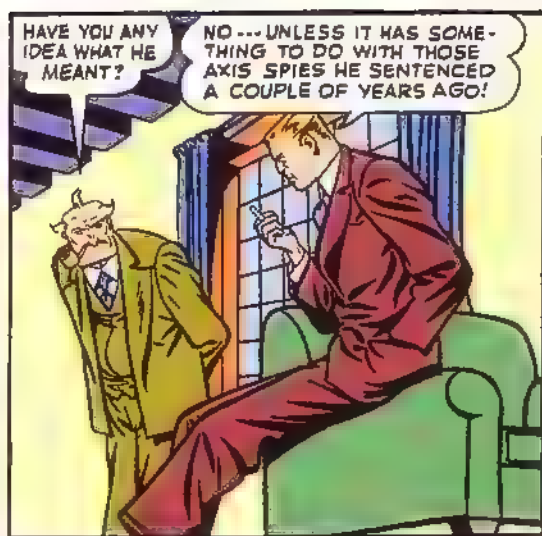
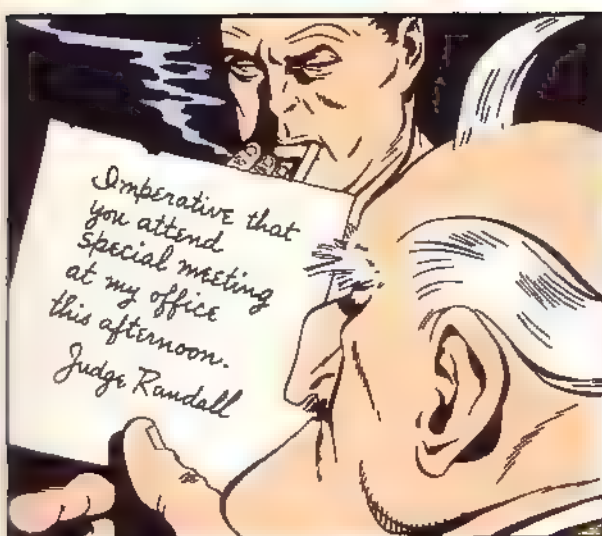


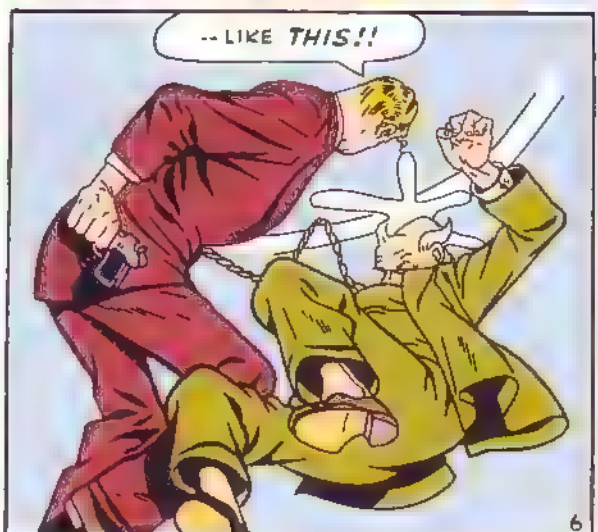
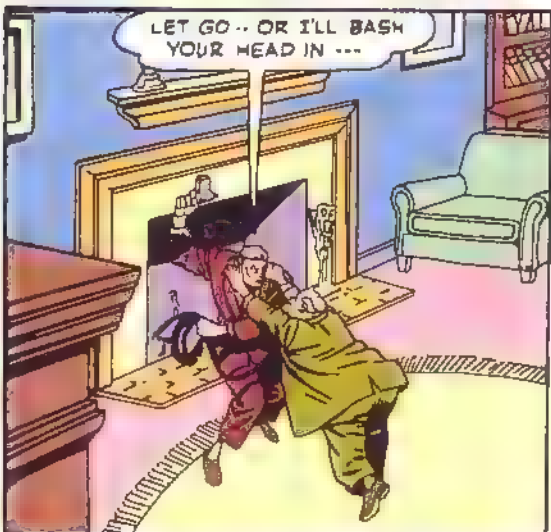
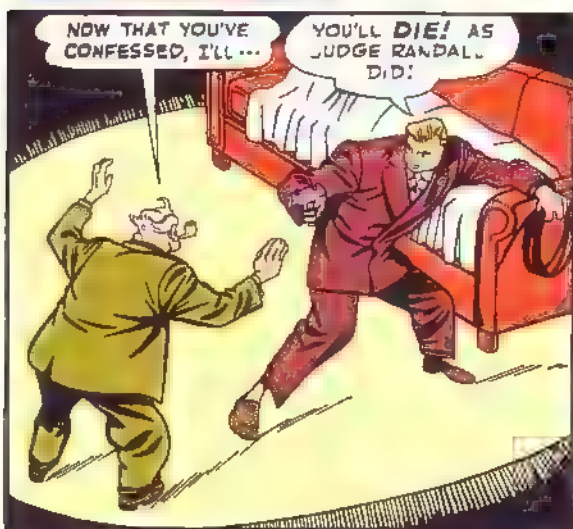
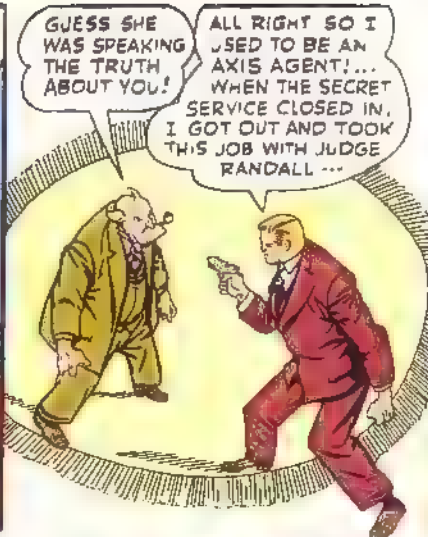




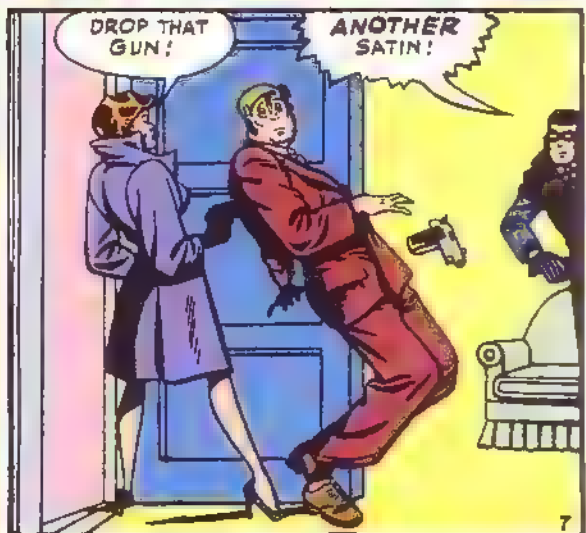
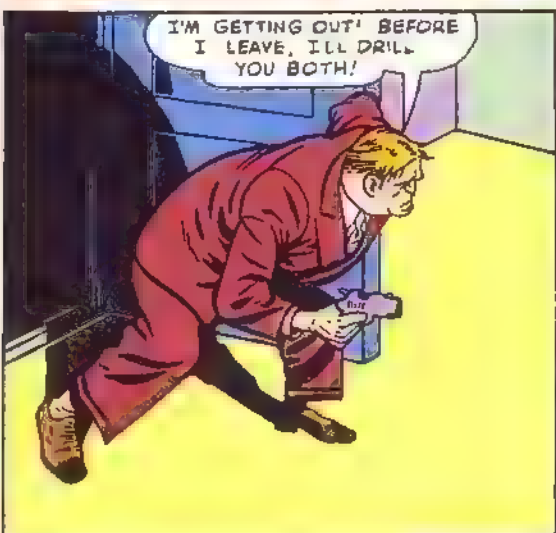
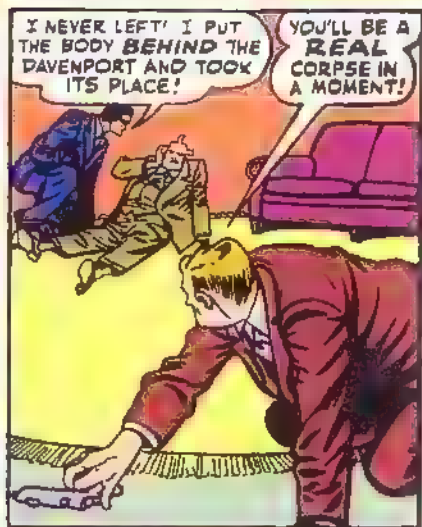
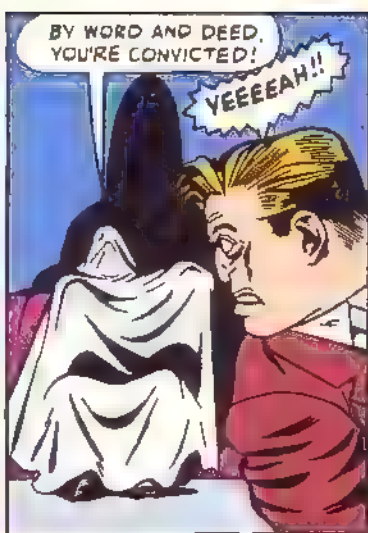








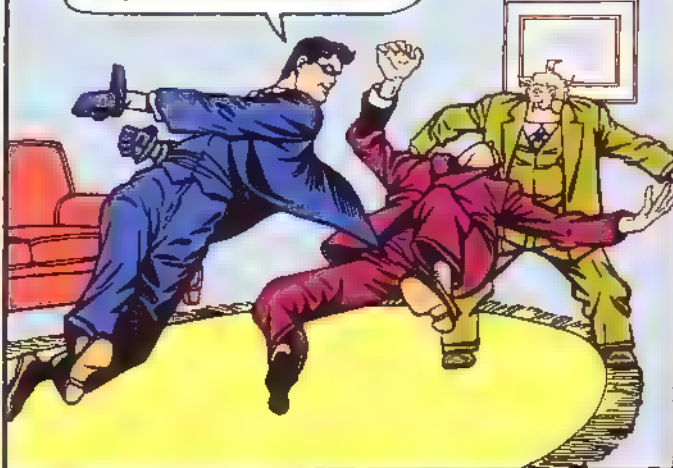




THE ROPE!--I'LL  
HANG MYSELF---

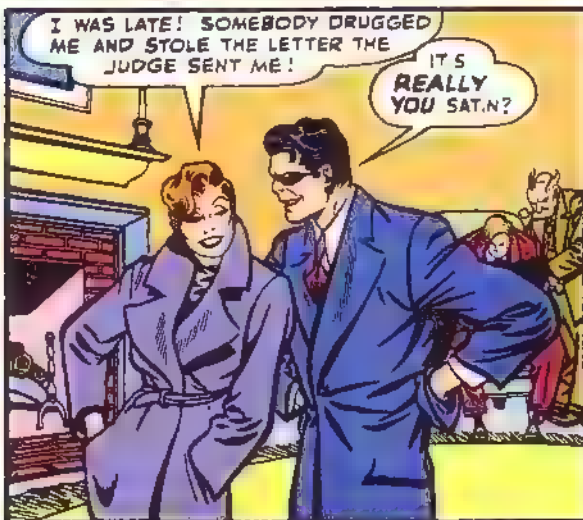


SORRY, BUT WE'RE NOT GOING  
TO GIVE YOU THAT OPPORTUNITY!



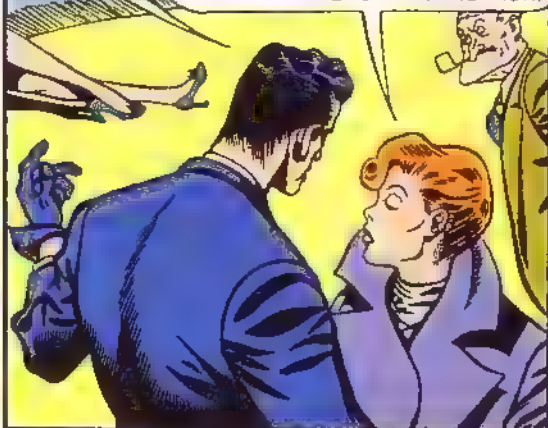
I WAS LATE! SOMEBODY DRUGGED  
ME AND STOLE THE LETTER THE  
JUDGE SENT ME!

IT'S  
REALLY  
YOU SATIN?



WHO'S THIS  
THEN?

A CLEVER DOUBLE THE AXIS ONCE  
TRAINED TO IMPERSONATE ME!...  
SHE CAUSED ME LOTS OF TROUBLE  
--BUT THAT SEEMS TO BE OVER NOW!



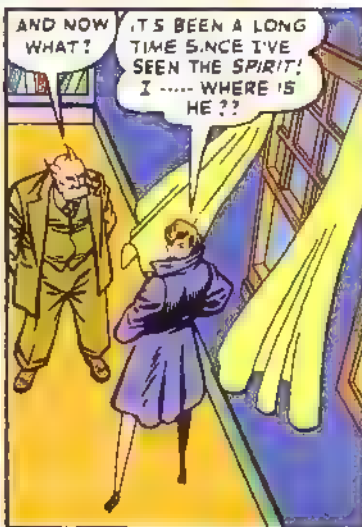
SEE? FALSE HAIR--  
NOTHING REALLY  
GENUINE ABOUT  
HER!

THEN YOU'RE  
NOT A TRAITOR  
AFTER ALL!



AND NOW  
WHAT?

IT'S BEEN A LONG  
TIME SINCE I'VE  
SEEN THE SPIRIT!  
I ---- WHERE IS  
HE??



YOU AND I CAN CATCH  
CROOKS SATIN -- BUT  
THE SPIRIT ALWAYS  
GETS AWAY!





COMIC  
BOOK  
SECTION

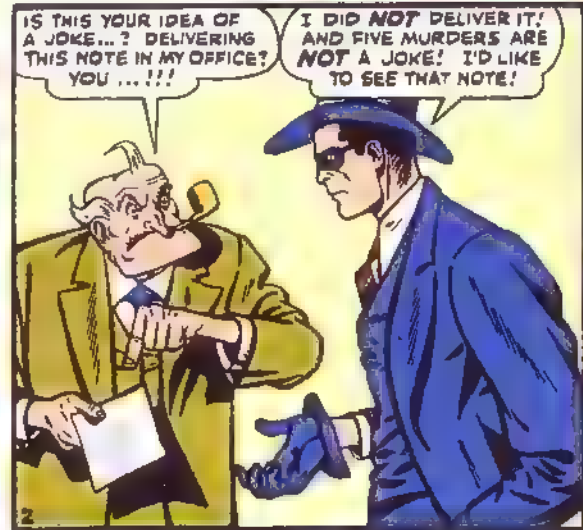
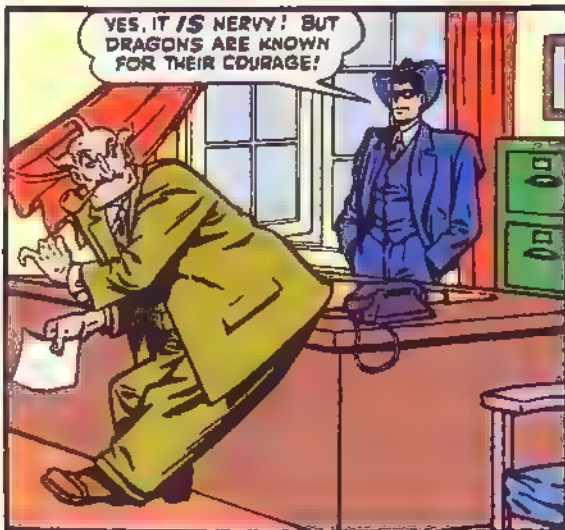
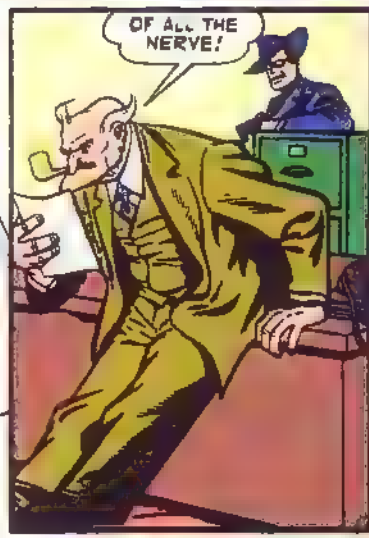
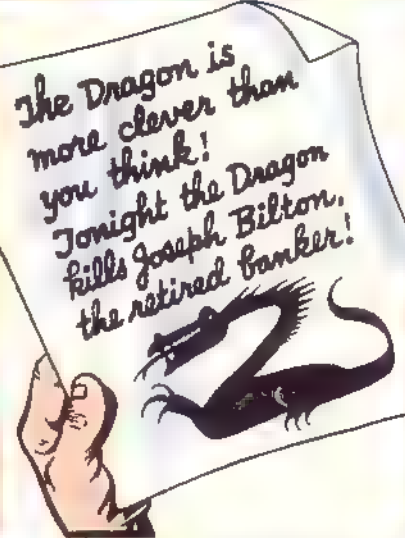
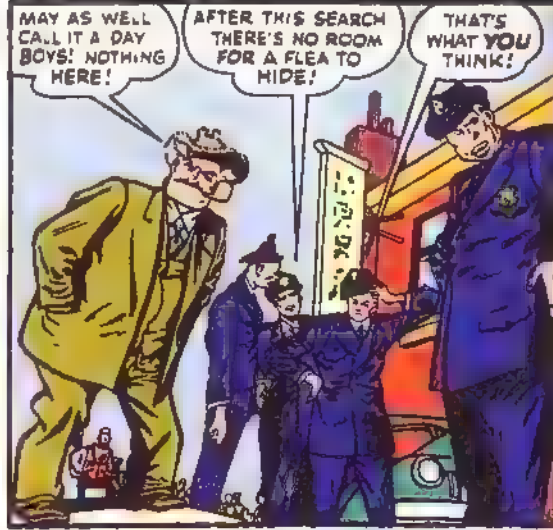
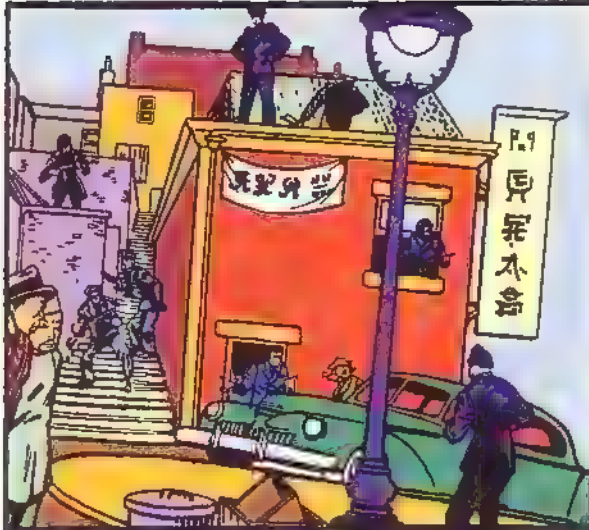
THE CASE OF THE KINDLY  
DRAGON!

July 30, 1944

ACTION  
Mystery  
ADVENTURE

# THE SPIRIT



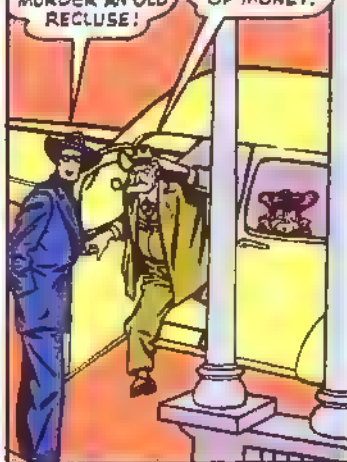




SEVERAL HOURS LATER AT THE RESIDENCE OF JOSEPH BILTON...

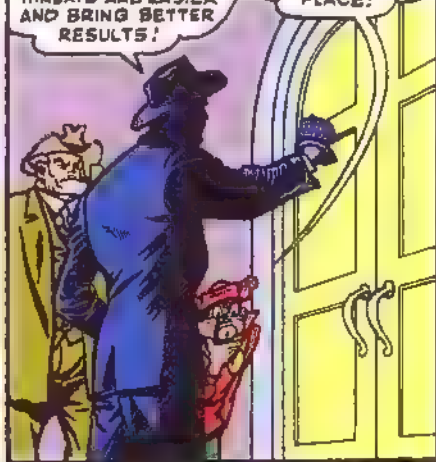


FUNNY ANYONE WOULD WANT TO MURDER AN OLD RECLUSE!



HE'S SUPPOSED TO HAVE A LOT OF MONEY!

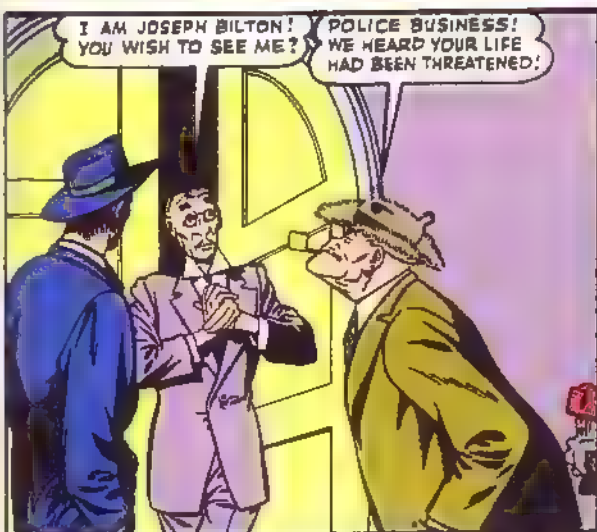
DEAD MEN DON'T PART WITH THEIR MONEY! ... THREATS ARE EASIER AND BRING BETTER RESULTS!



MIST' SPIRIT BOSS, AH DON'LAK THIS PLACE!

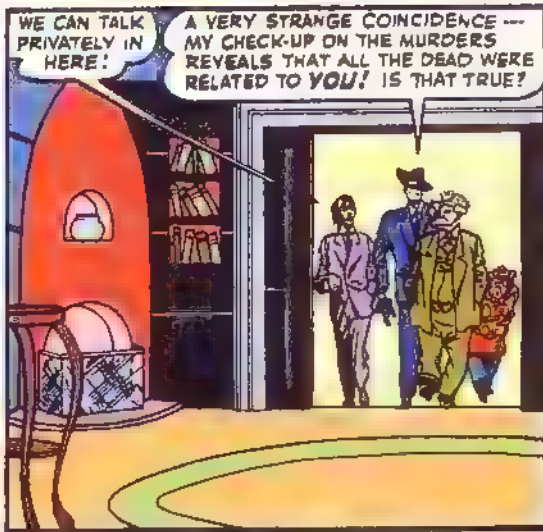
I AM JOSEPH BILTON! YOU WISH TO SEE ME?

POLICE BUSINESS! WE HEARD YOUR LIFE HAD BEEN THREATENED!



WE CAN TALK PRIVATELY IN HERE!

A VERY STRANGE COINCIDENCE --- MY CHECK-UP ON THE MURDERS REVEALS THAT ALL THE DEAD WERE RELATED TO YOU! IS THAT TRUE?



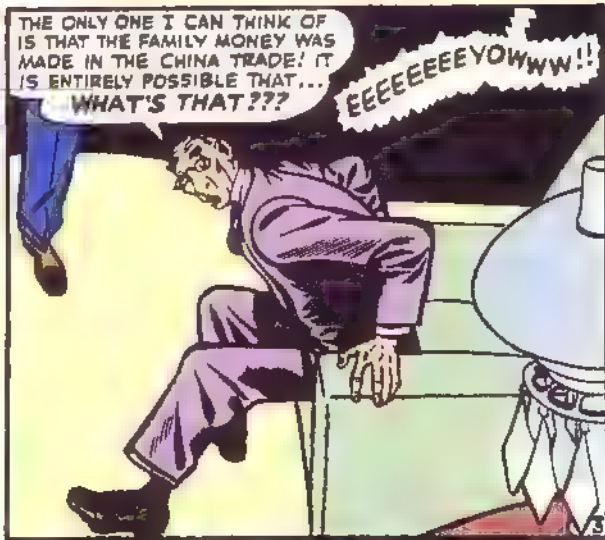
YES, IT WOULD SEEM THAT THE DREAD DRAGON SOCIETY MEANS TO KILL US ALL!

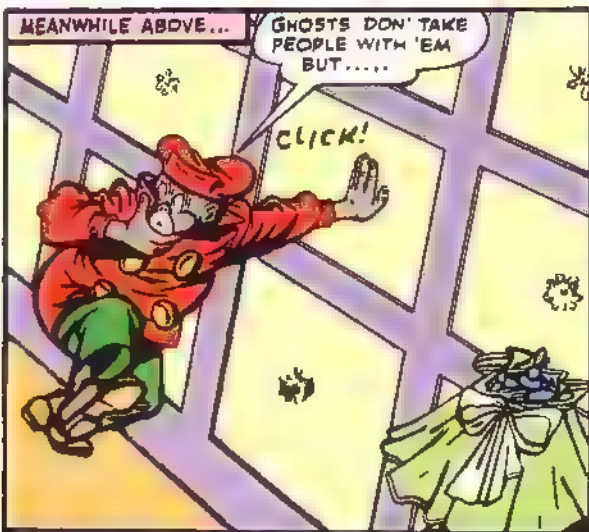
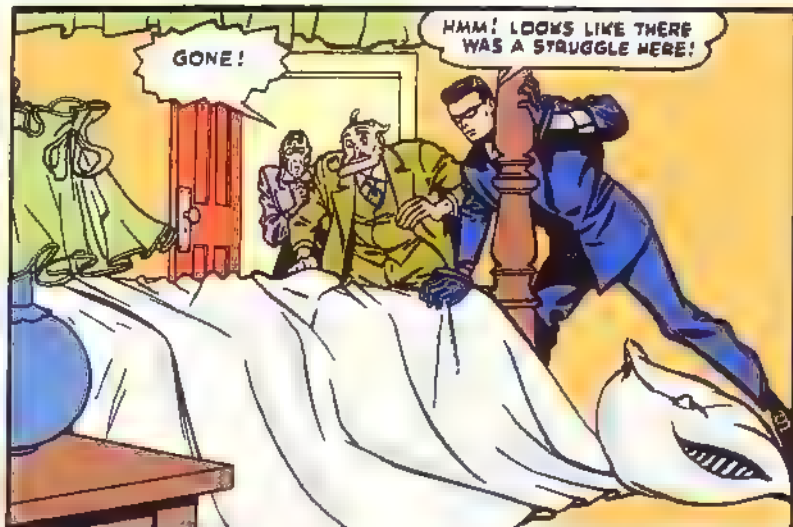
ANY REASON?



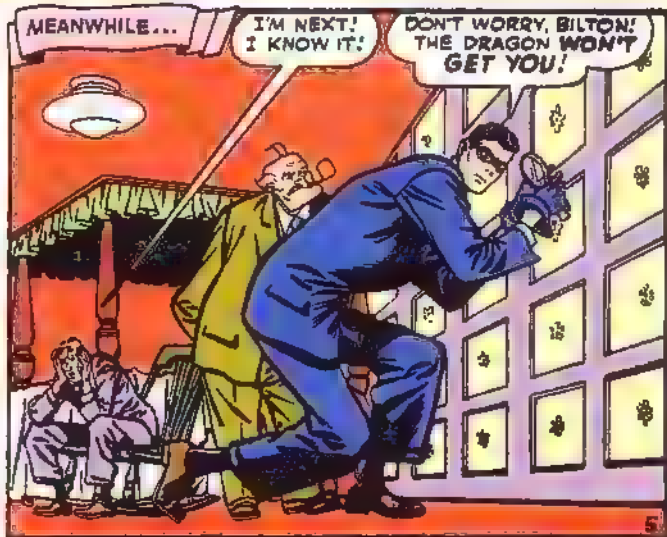
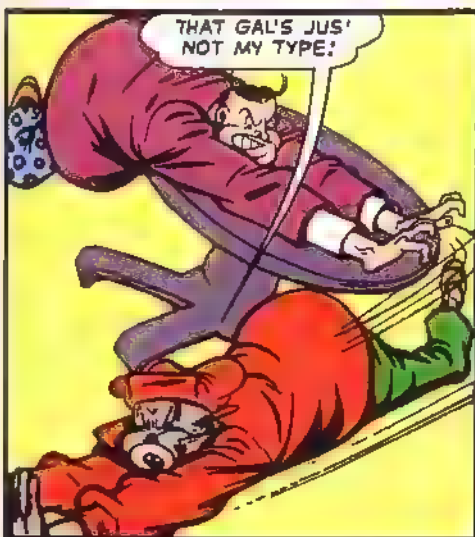
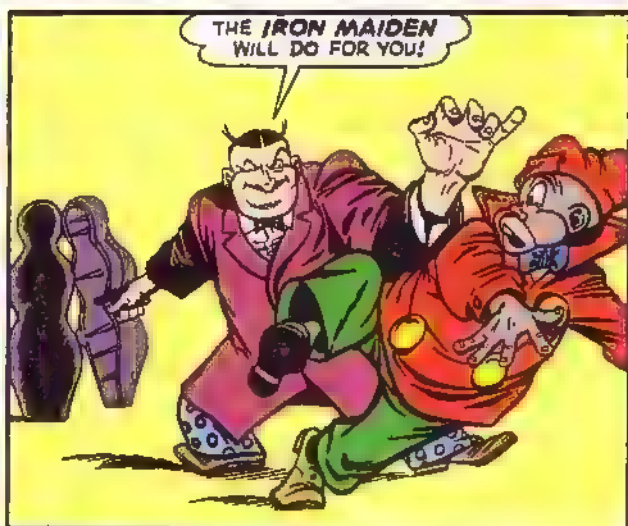
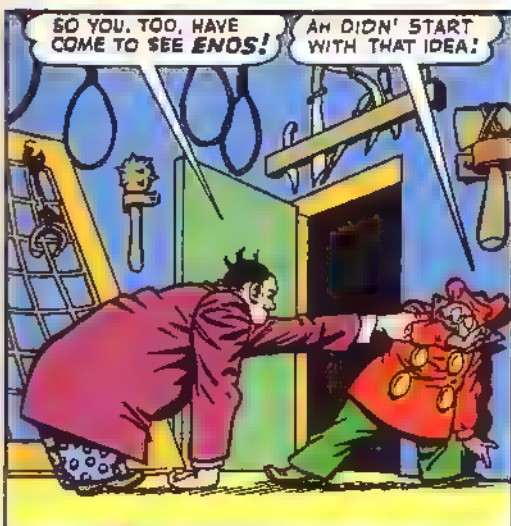
THE ONLY ONE I CAN THINK OF IS THAT THE FAMILY MONEY WAS MADE IN THE CHINA TRADE! IT IS ENTIRELY POSSIBLE THAT... WHAT'S THAT???

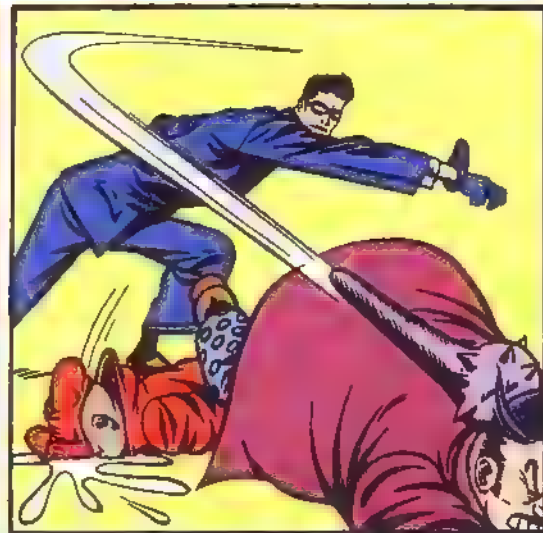
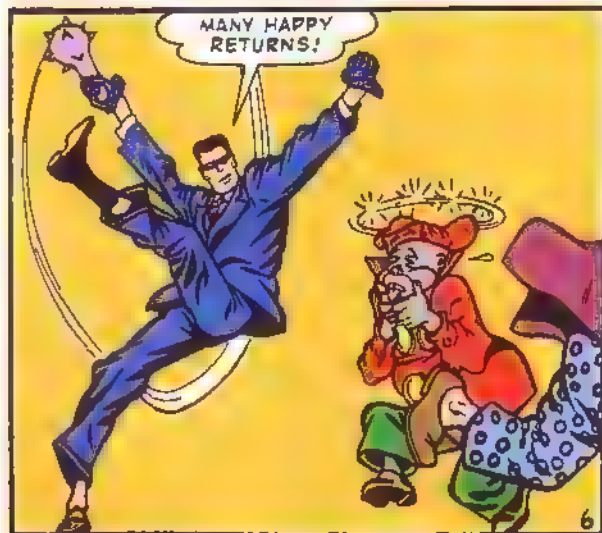
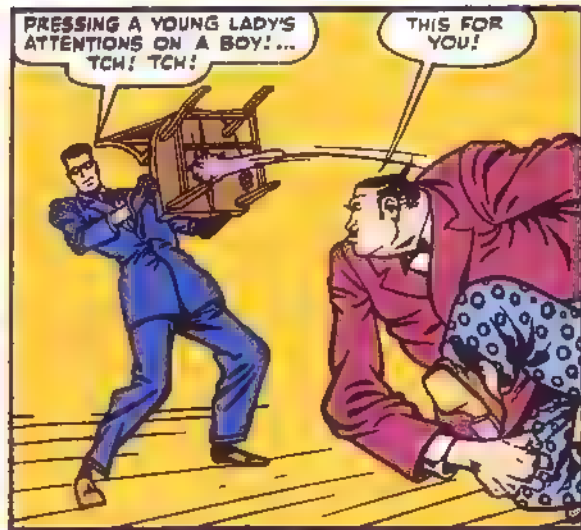
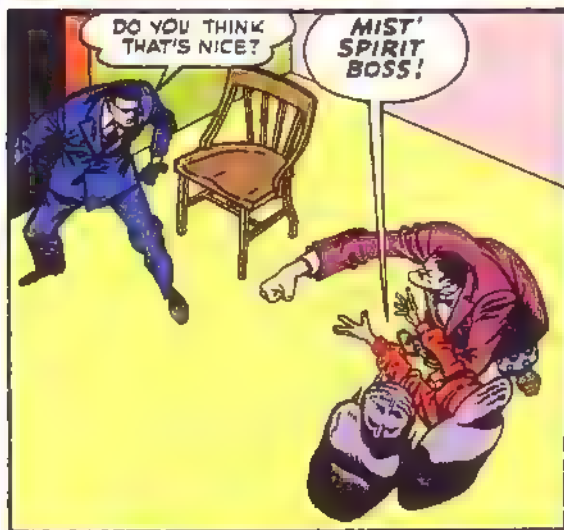
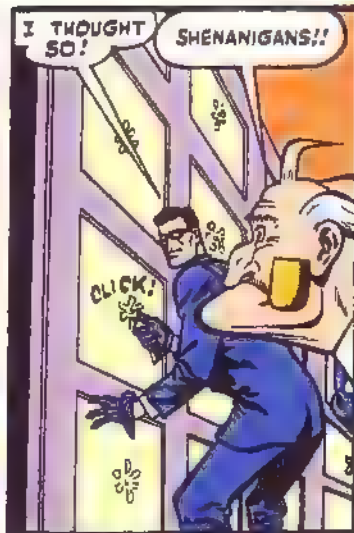
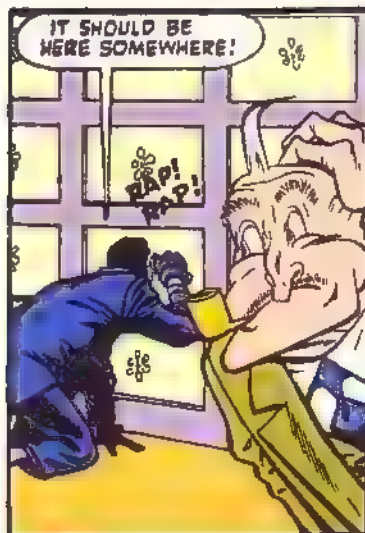
EEEEEEEEEEYOWWWW!!



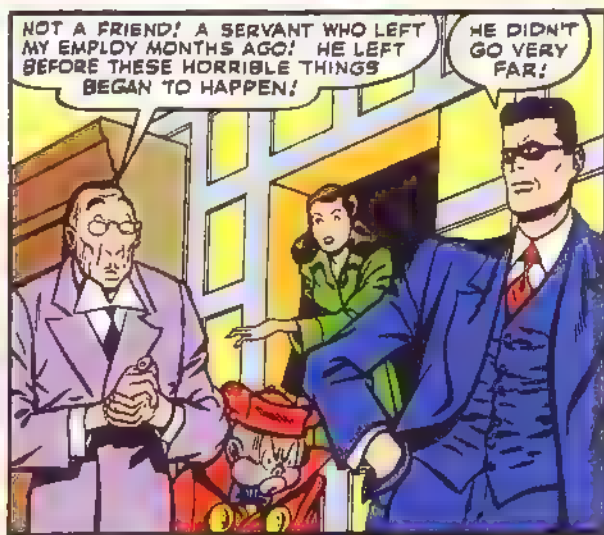
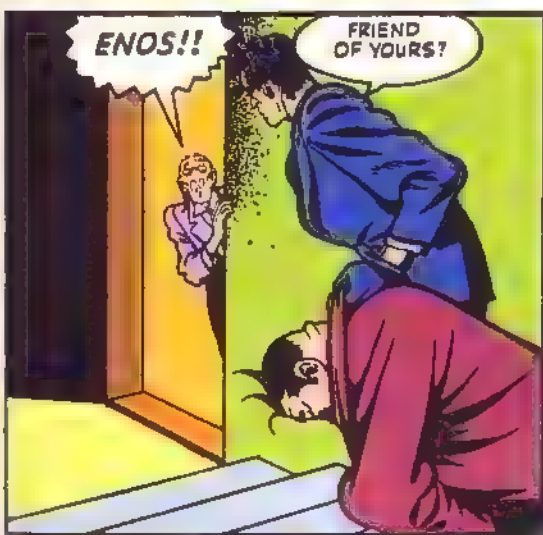
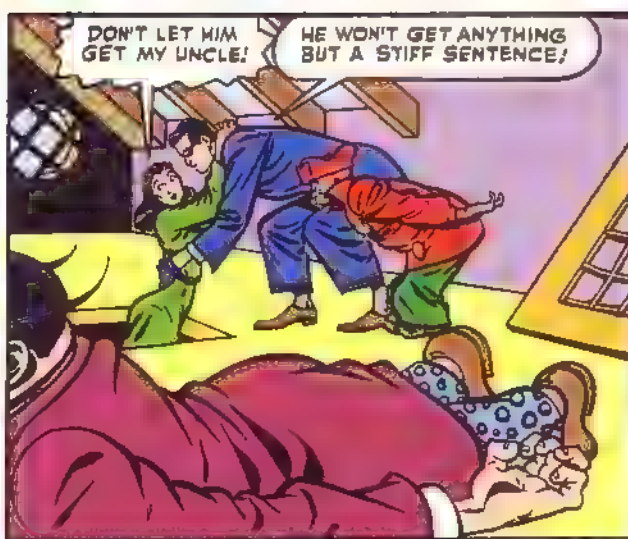


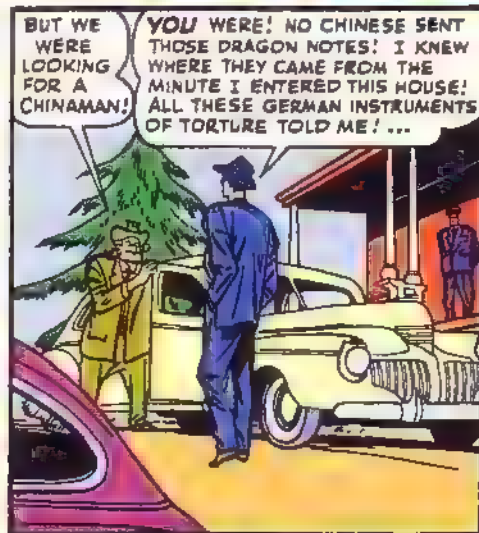
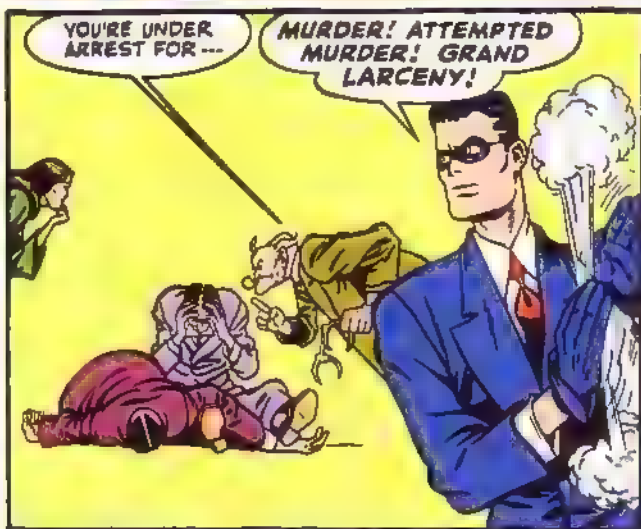
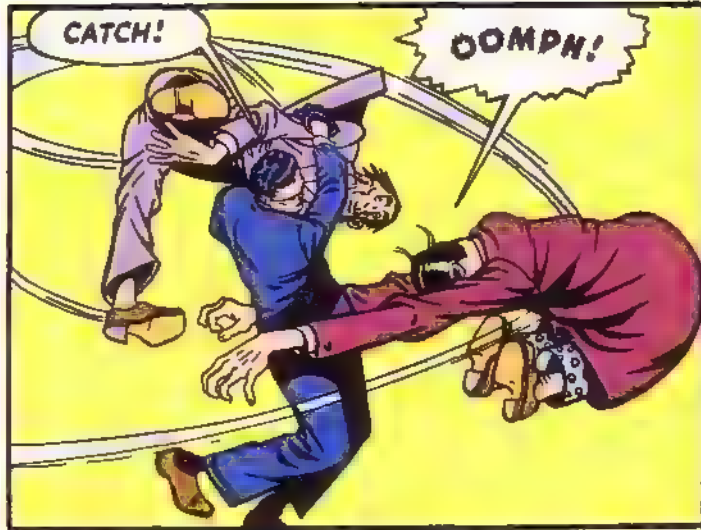














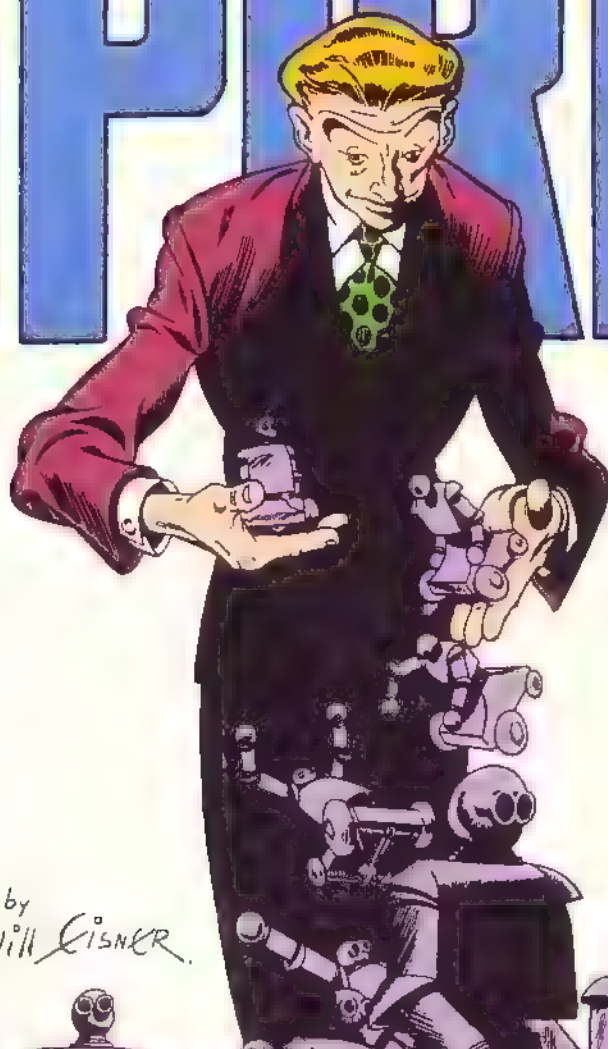
COMIC  
BOOK  
SECTION

THE METAL MONSTERS

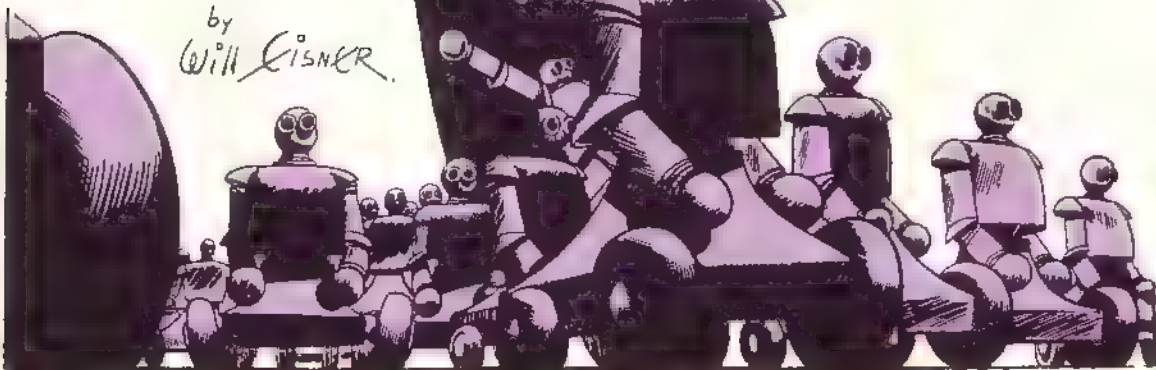
August 6, 1944

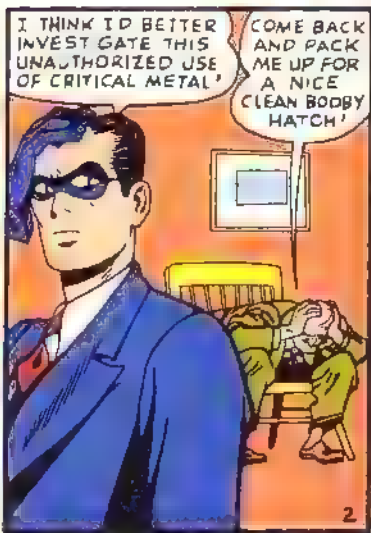
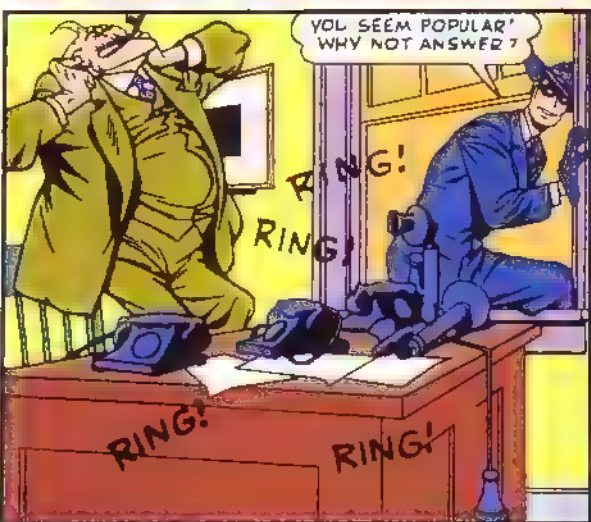
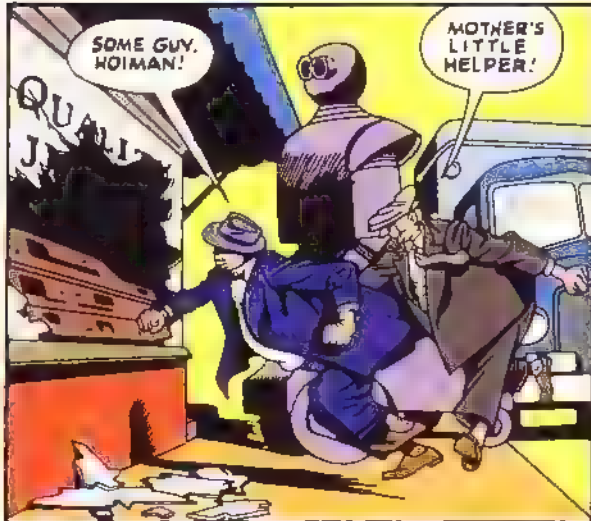
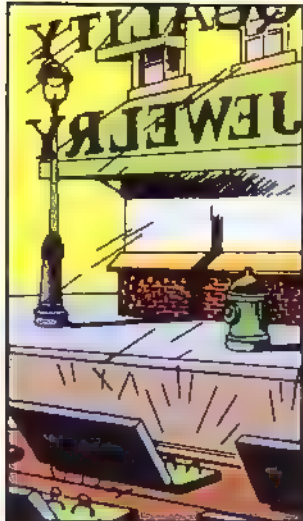
ACTION  
Mystery  
ADVENTURE

# THE SPIRIT

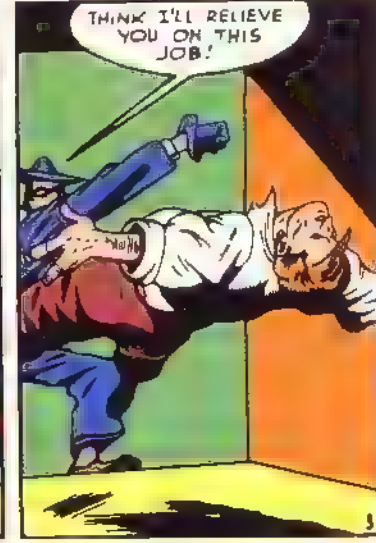
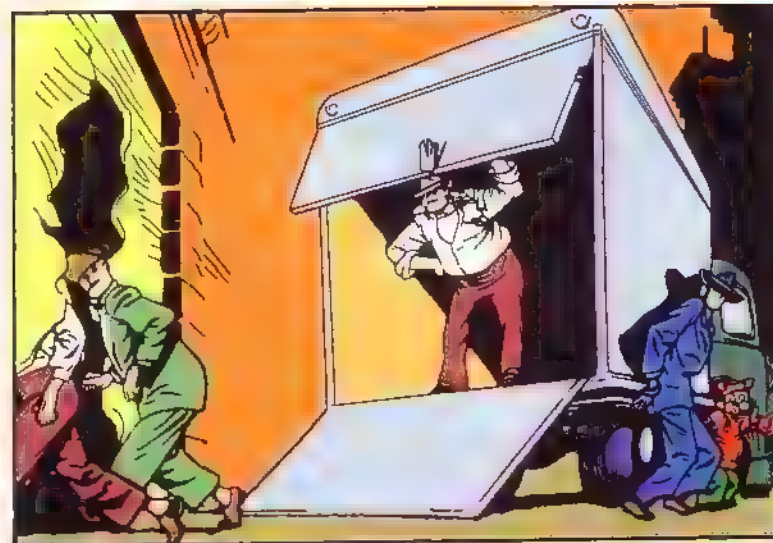
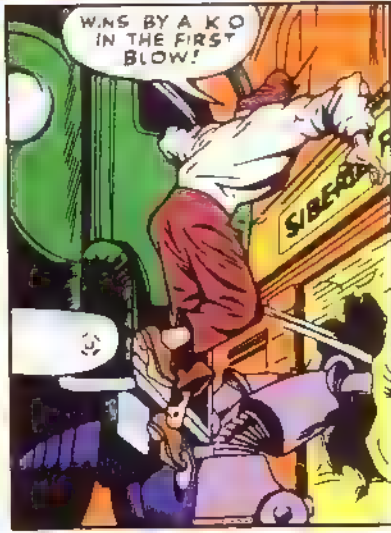
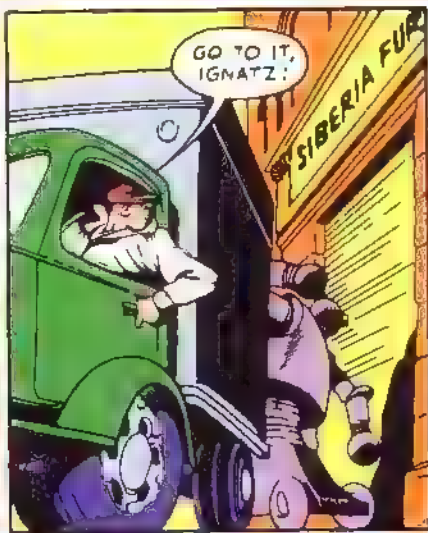
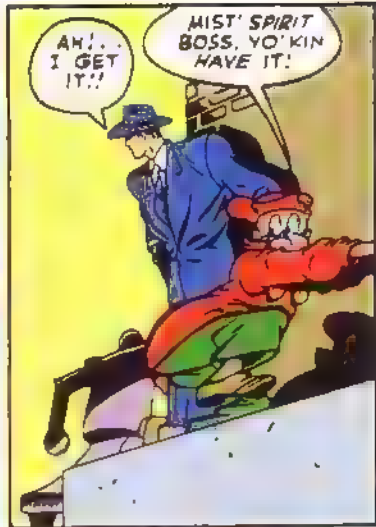
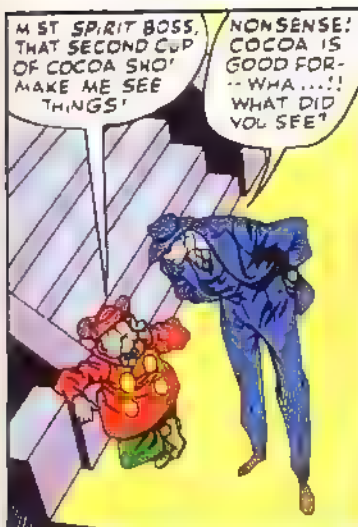


by  
Will Eisner.









GET INTO THE TOOL BOX ON THE RUNNING BOARD AND BRING ME A MONKEY WRENCH AND A SCREWDRIVER!



WHAT YO' GONNA DO WITH THE BIG ONE?



MAKE IT SHAPPY SLUG! THERE'S A HUNDRED GRAND MORE INSIDE!



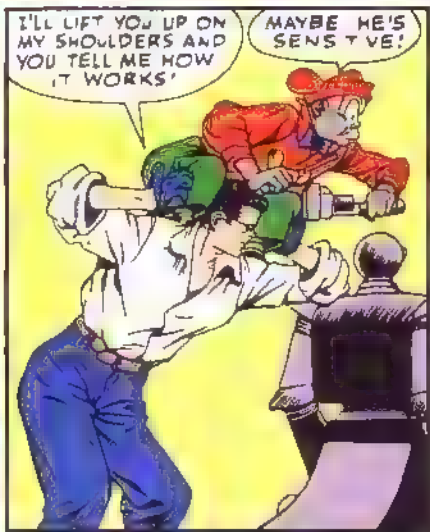
I WANT TO TALK TO YOU!

HALP! GLURG!



AH GOT THE TOOLS, MIST SPIRIT BOSS!

GOOD!... NOW, TO GET AT THAT OVERSIZED PLAYTHING!



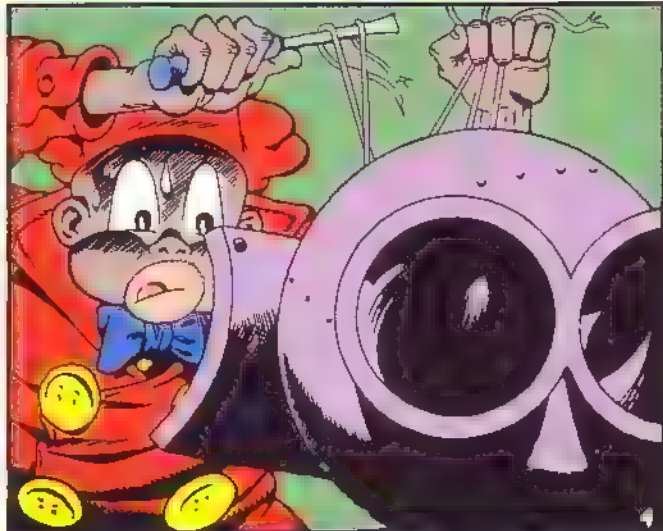
I'LL LIFT YOU UP ON MY SHOULDERS AND YOU TELL ME HOW IT WORKS!

MAYBE HE'S SENS TIVE!

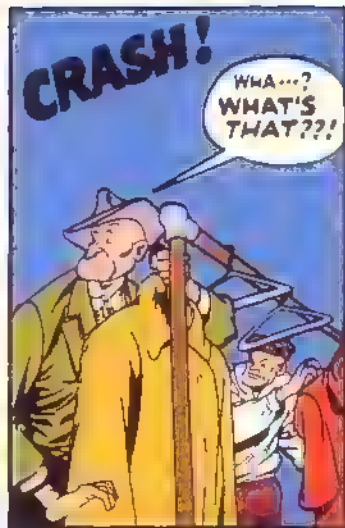
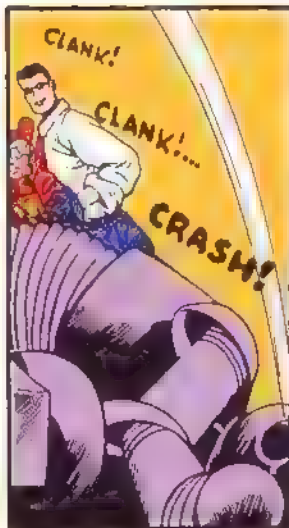


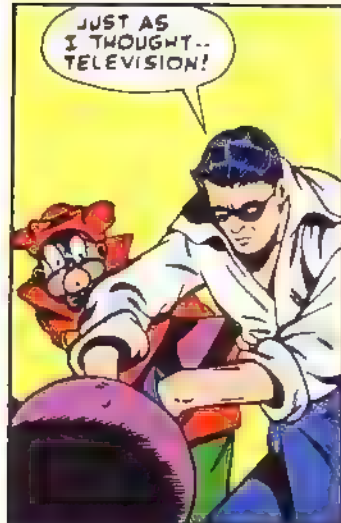
LOOKS LAK' AN OVERGROWN RADIO SET!

USE THE SCREWDRIVER AND BREAK SOME OF THE CONNECTIONS!







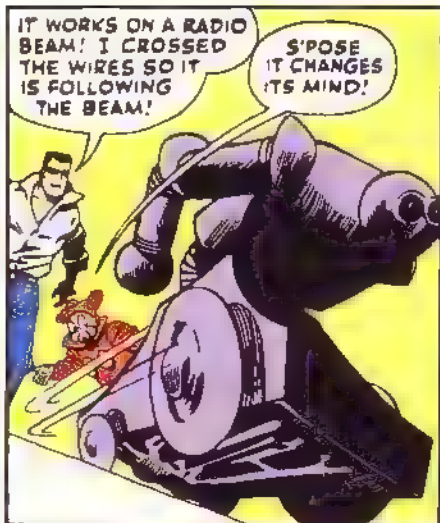


JUST AS  
I THOUGHT--  
TELEVISION!



DO WE LOAD  
THIS SALVAGE  
SCRAP ON THE  
TRUCK, TOO?

NO I'VE A  
BETTER IDEA:  
LOOK OUT  
NOW!



IT WORKS ON A RADIO  
BEAM! I CROSSED  
THE WIRES SO IT  
IS FOLLOWING  
THE BEAM!

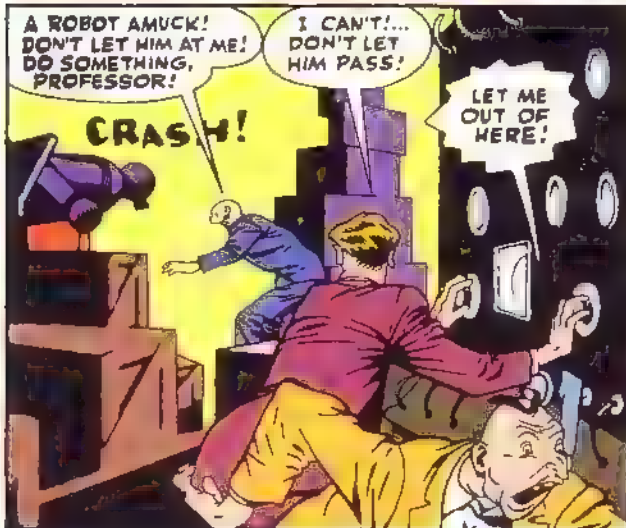
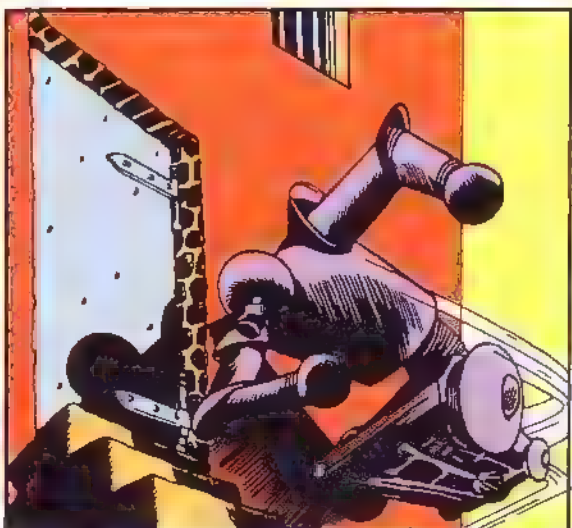
S'POSE  
IT CHANGES  
ITS MIND!



FOR MANY BLOCKS DOWN THE DESERTED STREET  
INTO THE WAREHOUSE DISTRICT:

THIS MEAN  
PLACE GIVES  
ME THE  
CREEPS'

SHHH!  
IT'S SLOWING  
DOWN!

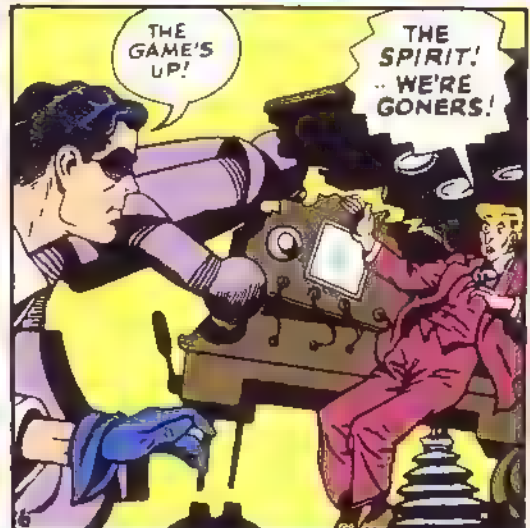


A ROBOT AMUCK!  
DON'T LET HIM AT ME!  
DO SOMETHING,  
PROFESSOR!

I CAN'T!...  
DON'T LET  
HIM PASS!

LET ME  
OUT OF  
HERE!

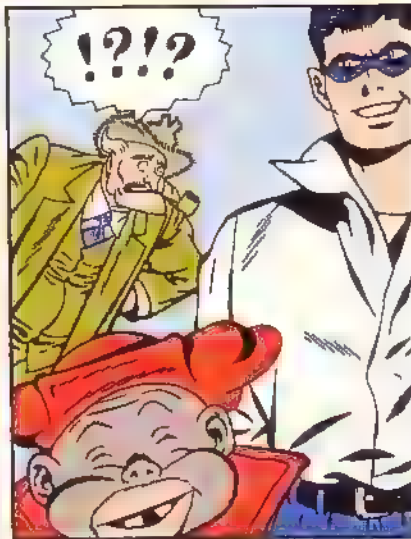
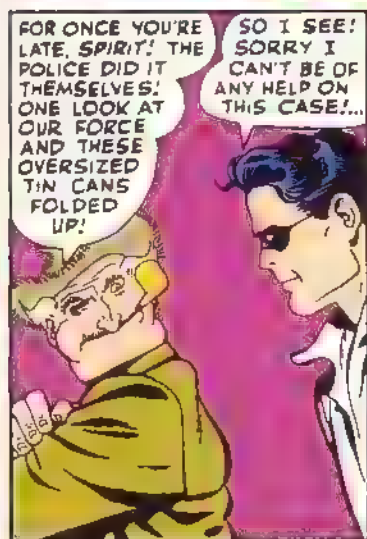
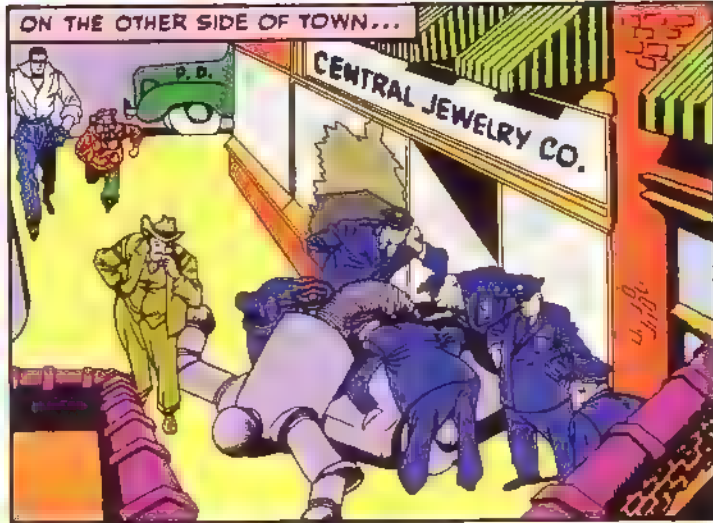
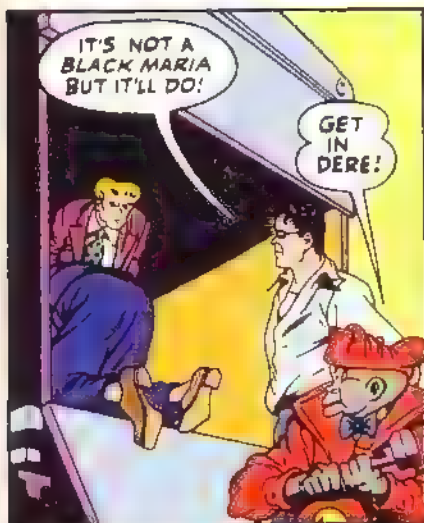
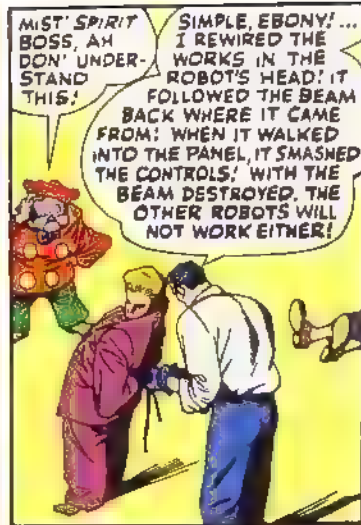
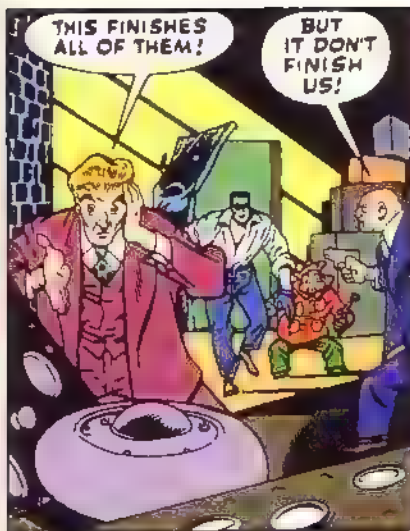
CRASH!



THE  
GAME'S  
UP!

THE  
SPIRIT!  
...WE'RE  
GONERS!





COMIC  
BOOK  
SECTION

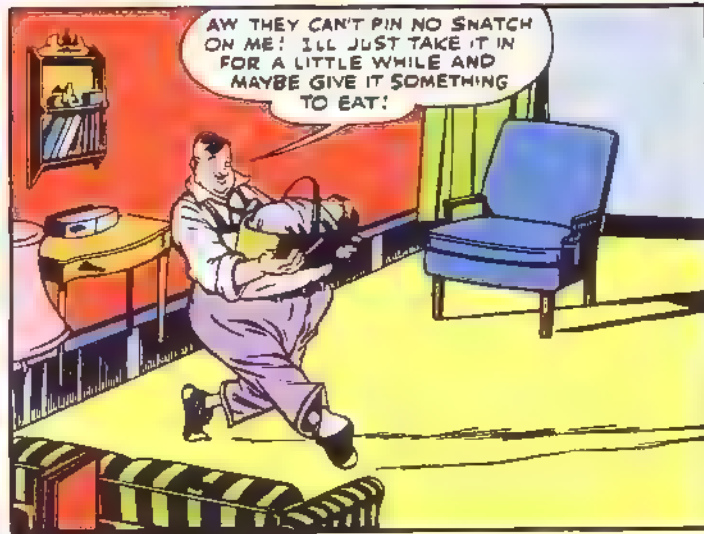
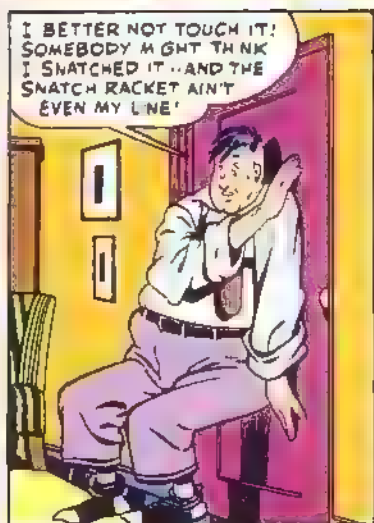
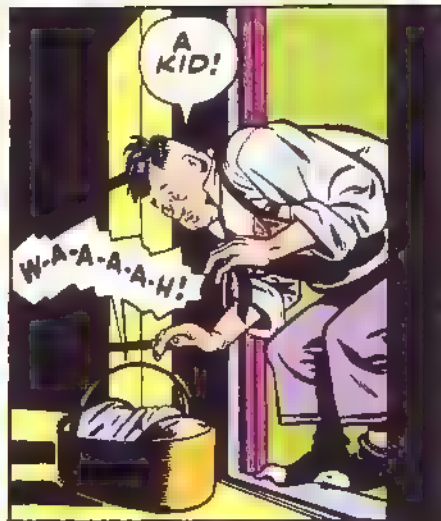
SMOOCH & THE BABY

August 13, 1944

ACTION  
Mystery  
ADVENTURE





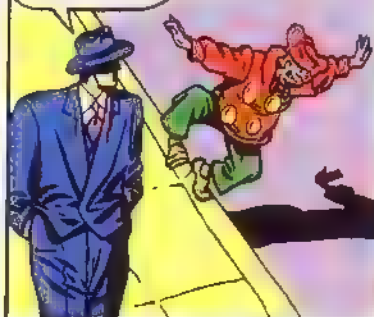


LET'S SEE! ... I GOT A LITTLE CORNED BEEF HASH LEFT! IT OUGHTA LIKE THAT!

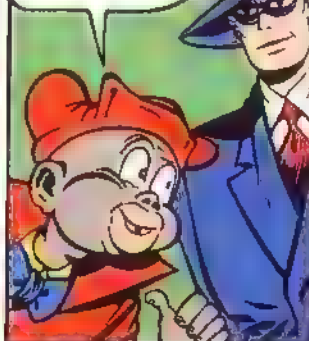


Meanwhile...

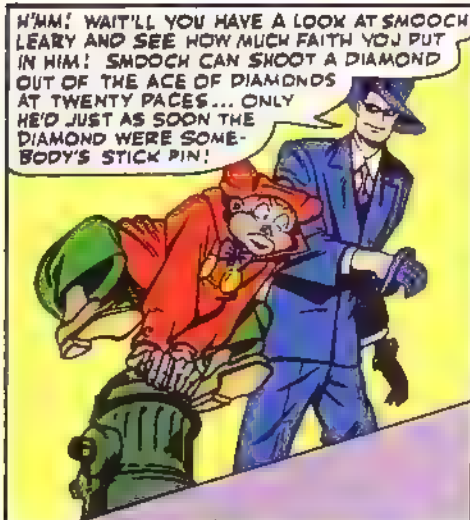
IT'S DOLAN'S IDEA THAT AN OUNCE OF PREVENTION IS WORTH A POUND OF CURE ... SO, SINCE THE ARMORED CAR PEOPLE ARE AFTER HIM TO KEEP AN EYE ON POSSIBLE STICK-UP CHARACTERS, HE WANTS ME TO DROP IN ON SOME I KNOW PERSONALLY!



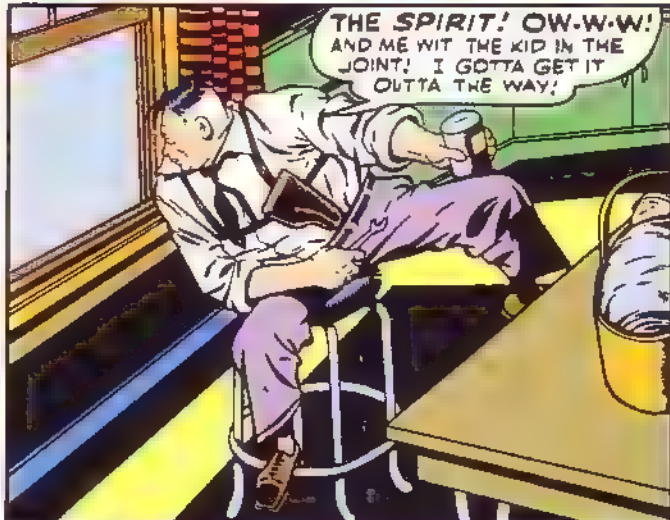
YO' MEAN HE WANTS YO' TO CHECK UP ON DEM AN GIVE DEM FRIEN'LY ADVICE ABOUT STAYIN' OUTTA TROUBLE? DAT'S ONE OB DE THINGS AH LIKES ABOUT COMM,SSIONER DOLAN! HE HAS FAITH IN PEOPLE JES' THE WAY AH HAS!



H'HM! WAIT'LL YOU HAVE A LOOK AT SMOOCH LEARY AND SEE HOW MUCH FAITH YOU PUT IN HIM! SMOOCH CAN SHOOT A DIAMOND OUT OF THE ACE OF DIAMONDS AT TWENTY PACES... ONLY HE'D JUST AS SOON THE DIAMOND WERE SOME-BODY'S STICK PIN!



THE SPIRIT! OW-W-W-W! AND ME WIT THE KID IN THE JOINT! I GOTTA GET IT OUTTA THE WAY!



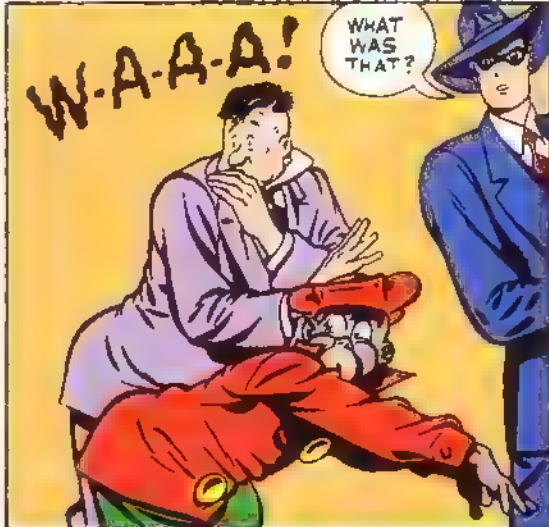
WELL SMOOCH YOU WERE A LONG TIME OPENING THE DOOR! DON'T TELL ME YOU AREN'T GLAD TO SEE ME!



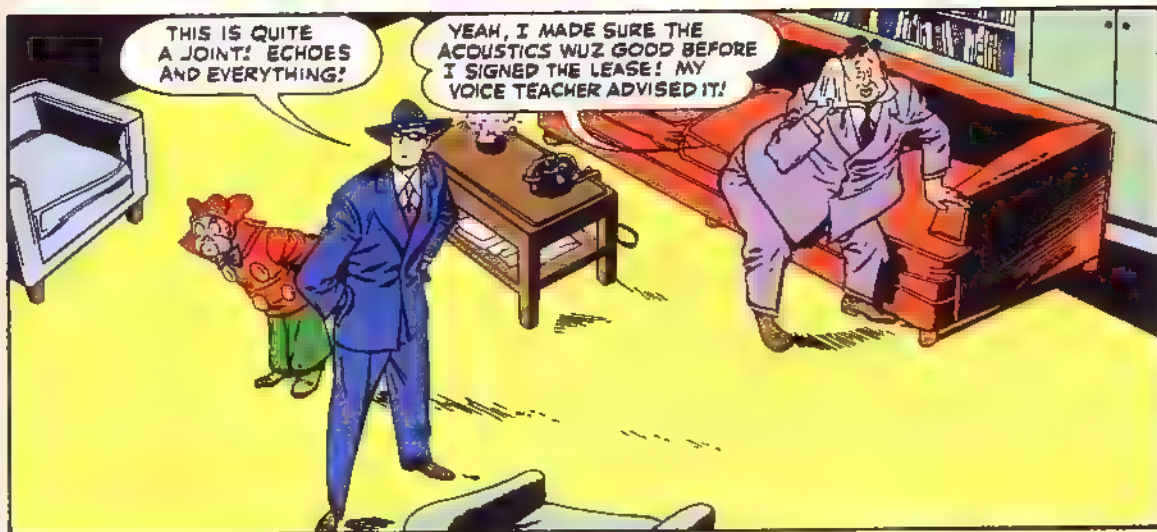
AW, SPIRIT, YOU KNOW BETTERN THAT! IT'S JUST THAT I HADDA PUT ON ME COAT TO RECEIVE YUH!

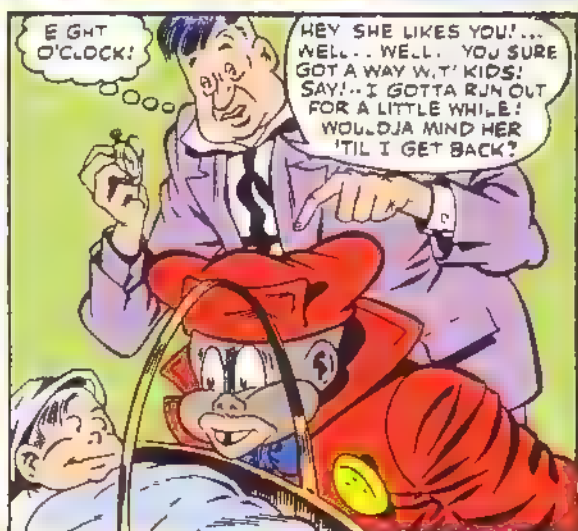
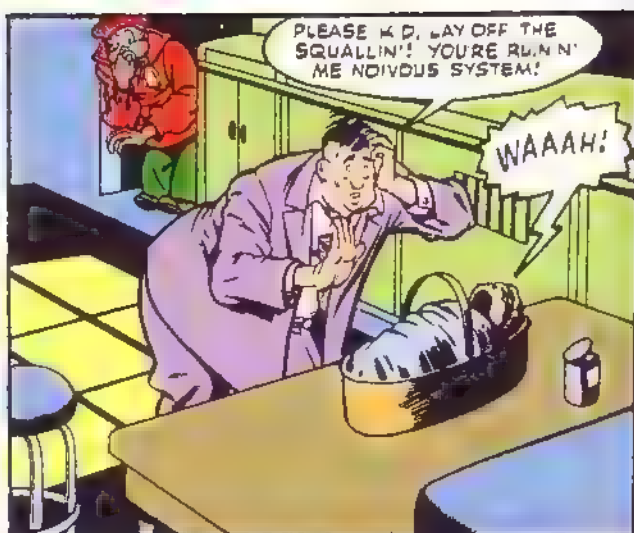
W-A-A-A!

WHAT WAS THAT?

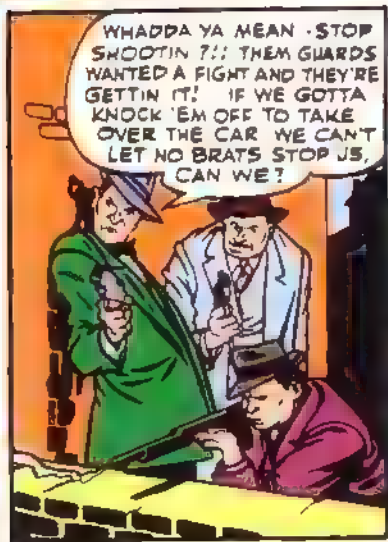
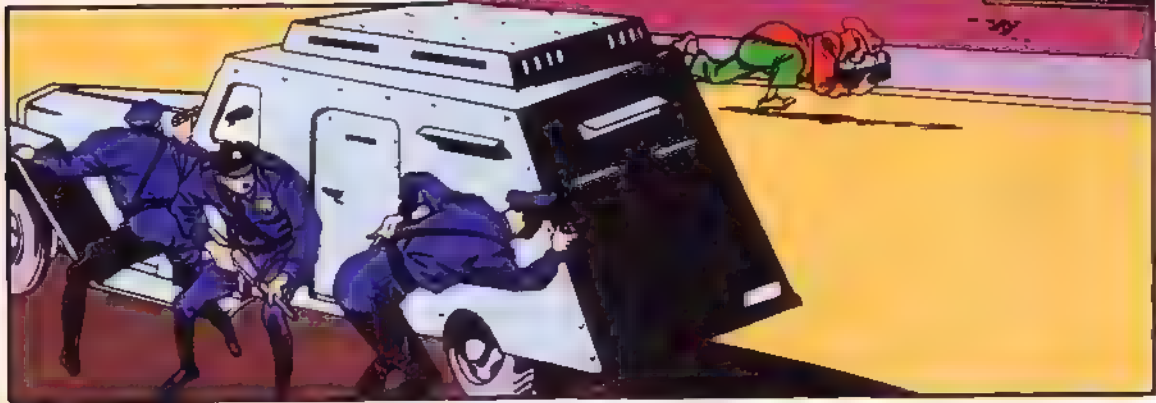
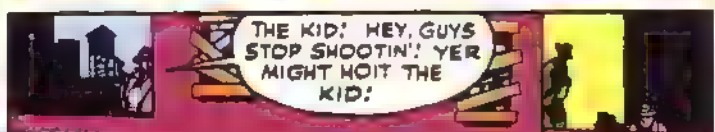
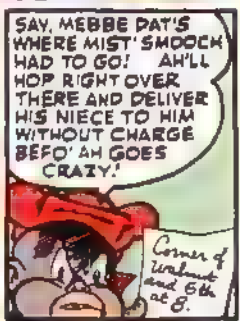
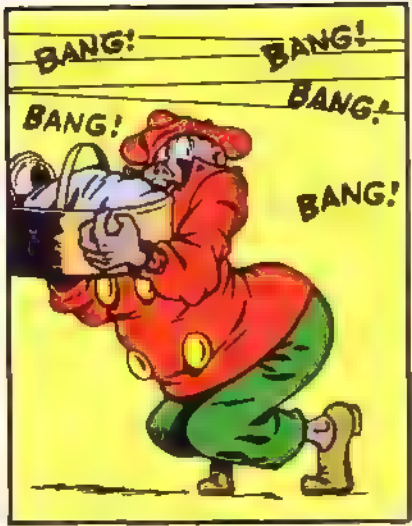


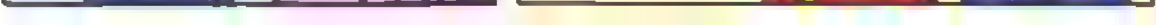
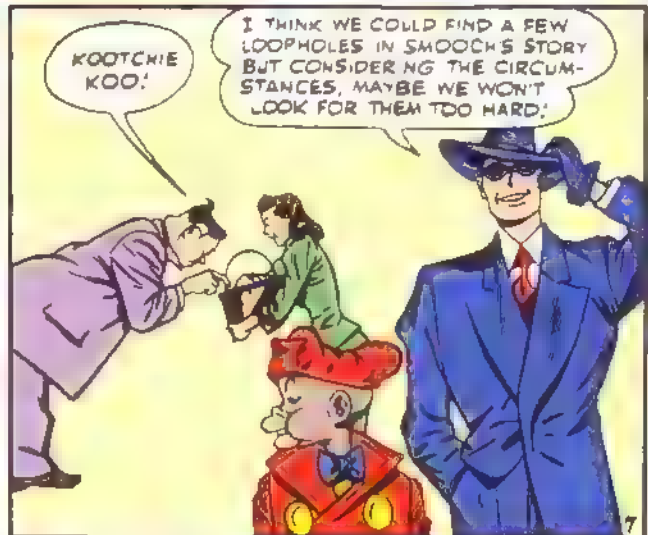
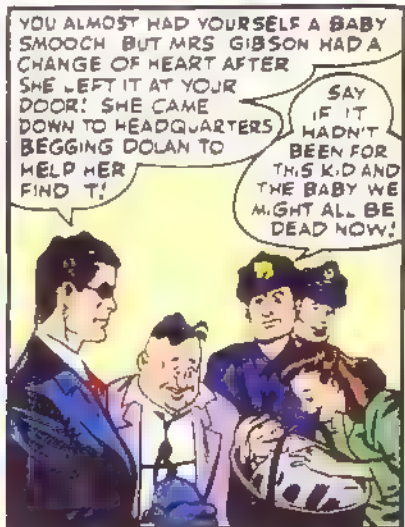














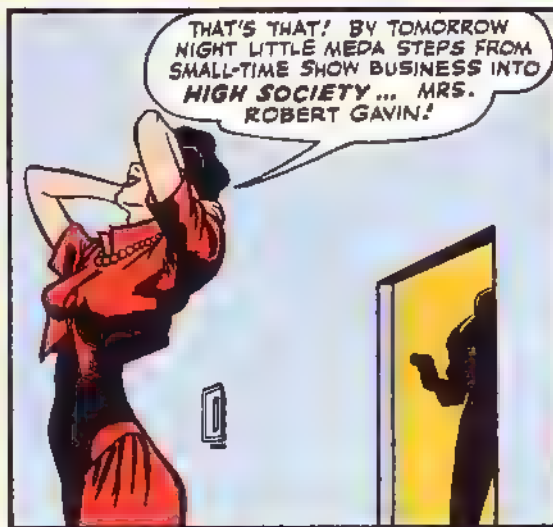
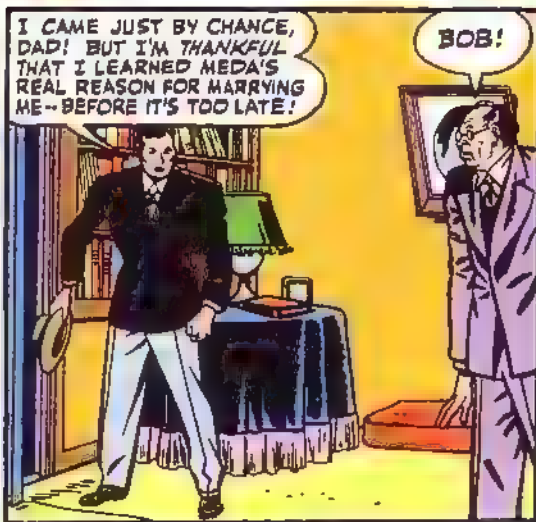
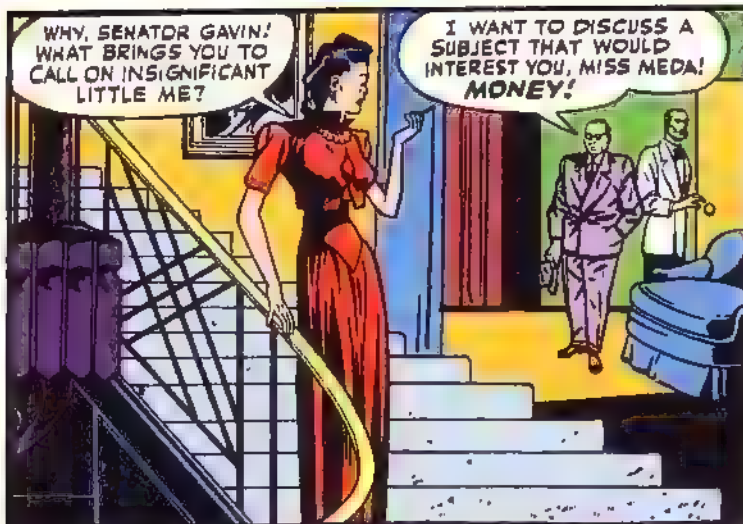
COMIC  
BOOK  
SECTION

MISS MEDA

August 20, 1944

ACTION  
Mystery  
ADVENTURE









POLICE! QUICK--  
HE'S GOING TO  
KILL ME!



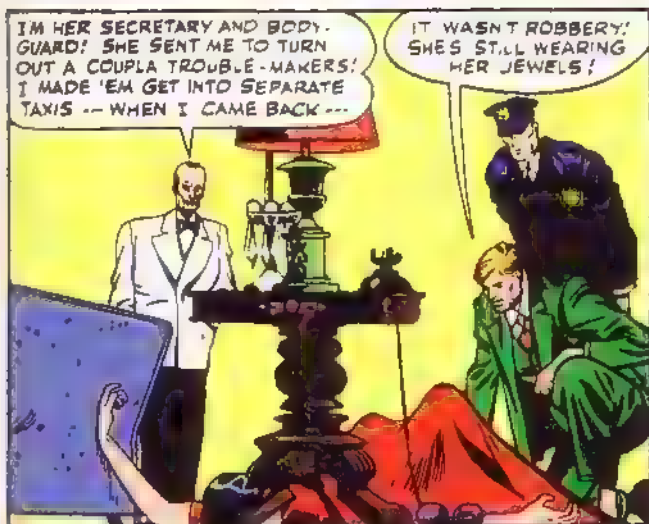
A SCREAM--AND A SHOT!  
TRACE THIS CALL AND  
GET OUT THERE  
ON THE JUMP!

YES, SIR!



SOMEBODY  
PHONED!--  
WHAT  
HAPPENED  
HERE?

PLENTY OFFICER!  
COME IN!



I'M HER SECRETARY AND BODY-  
GUARD! SHE SENT ME TO TURN  
OUT A COUPLE TROUBLE-MAKERS!  
I MADE 'EM GET INTO SEPARATE  
TAXIS -- WHEN I CAME BACK---

IT WASN'T ROBBERY!  
SHE'S STILL WEARING  
HER JEWELS!



LOOKS LIKE  
REVENGE KILLING  
HLM? ... CAN YOU  
OPEN THAT  
SAFE?

SURE  
I CAN!



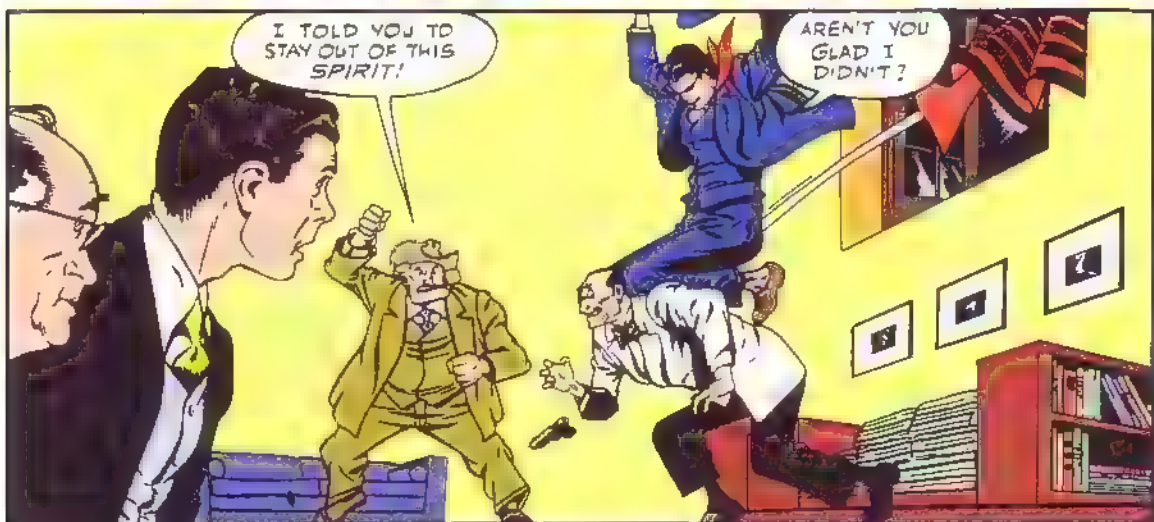
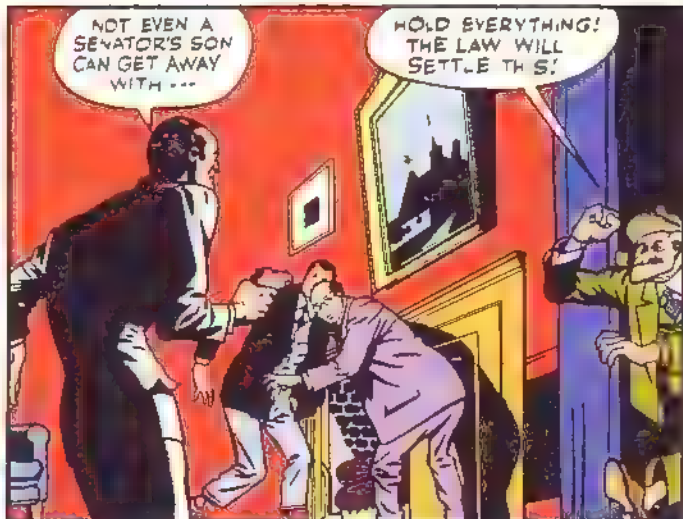
ALL HER  
VALUABLES  
ARE SAFE!

HEY! THESE LETTERS ARE  
FROM SENATOR GAVIN'S  
KID! I'D BETTER PASS  
THAT WORD RIGHT UP TO  
THE TOP OF THE  
DEPARTMENT!

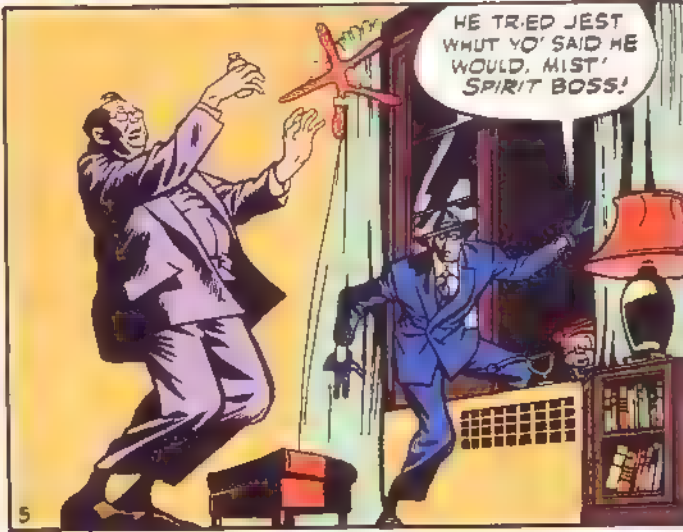
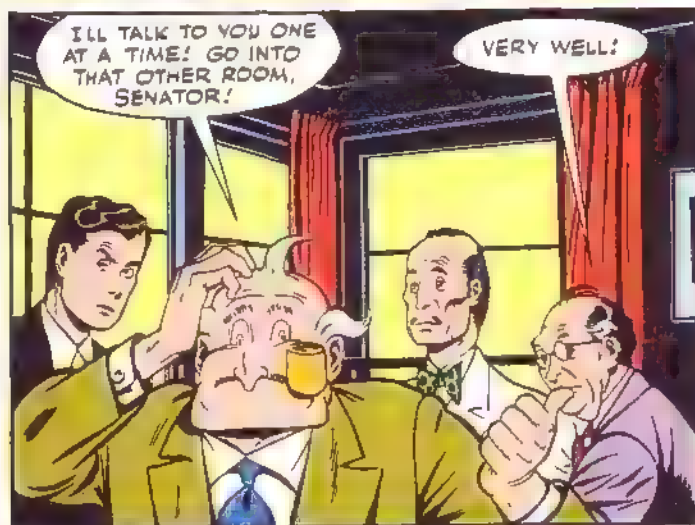
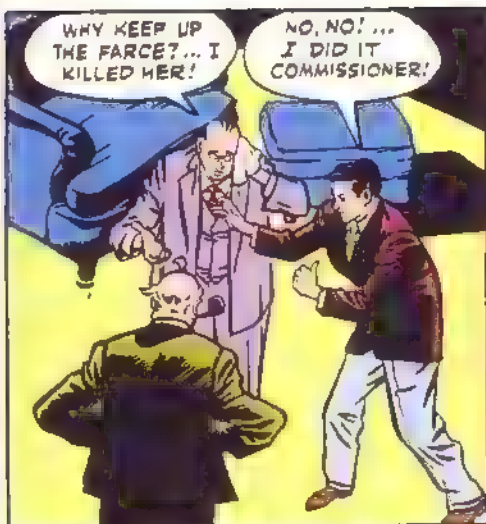


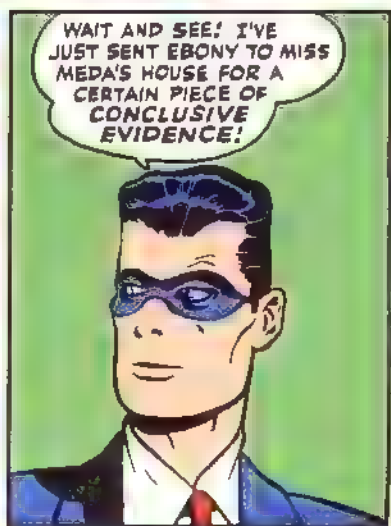
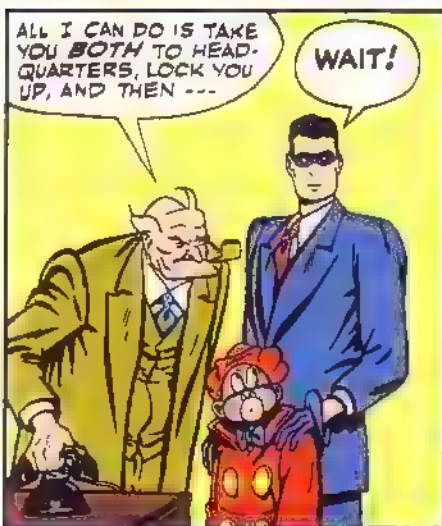
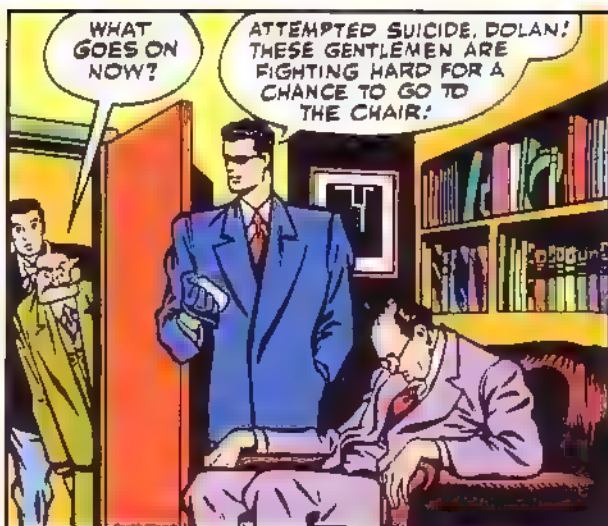
THE SENATOR'S SON YOU  
SAY? IMPLICATED IN  
MURDER? THEN I'D  
BETTER INVESTIGATE  
MYSELF!

AND WE'LL COME ALONG,  
DOLAN-- TO HELP YOU  
FROM SMASHING  
ALL THE CHINA  
IN THE SHOP!











I THOUGHT SO! --OKAY, SILKIE, THE JIG IS UP! ... YOU CAN'T EXPECT TO BEAT THE GAME FOREVER!



AFRAID THE REAL STORY WOULD GET OUT, EH? -- DOLAN, YOU REMEMBER SILKIE SANDERS?



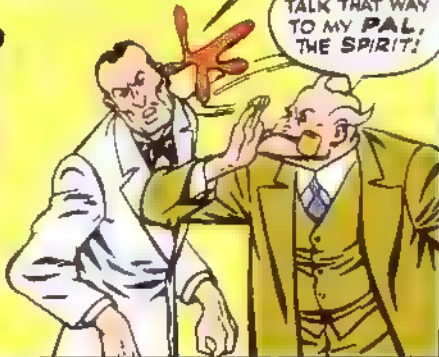
WHAT!? --PARRY?... WELL @#%&!! SILKIE, YOU BLACKMAILING RAT! AT LAST WE'VE GOT OUR HANDS ON YOU!

IT'S ALL BECOMING PRETTY CLEAR! ... MEDA WAS THE MOLL WHO WORKED THAT SWEET RACKET WITH YOU! AFTER SHE LURED AND COMPROMISED THE INNOCENT RICH BOYS, YOU'D MAKE AN APPEARANCE AS THE INDIGNANT HUSBAND! --AND, OF COURSE, THEY'D HAVE TO SETTLE!



YOU DIRTY @X#%&!! GLUB--SPUTTER...

YOU CAN'T TALK THAT WAY TO MY PAL, THE SPIRIT!

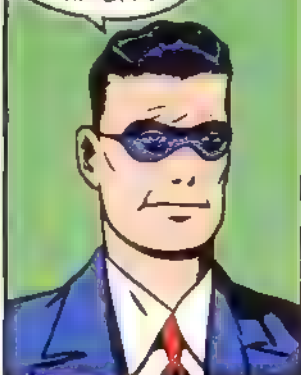


THANKS DOLAN! -- BUT THIS TIME MEDA WAS GIVING YOU THE RUN-AROUND, EH SILKIE? SHE REALLY PLANNED TO MARRY BOB GAY N, AND THAT WOULD HAVE LEFT YOU OUT IN THE COLD! SO, YOU--

NOTH N' OF THE KIND! --I WAS HER BODYGUARD!



HUH-UH! ... NO DICE! IF YOU WERE THERE TO PROTECT HER SHE WOULDN'T HAVE HAD TO CALL THE POLICE! THAT WAS THE TIP-OFF!



THEN THAT CLEARS THE SENATOR AND HIS SON!

OBSVIOUSLY! THEY WERE TOO ANXIOUS TO ADMIT GUILT FROM THE FIRST--PROTECTING EACH OTHER! AND F MEDA HAD BEEN KILLED FOR THE LETTERS THEY WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN LEFT AS EVIDENCE TO DECEIVE THE POLICE!

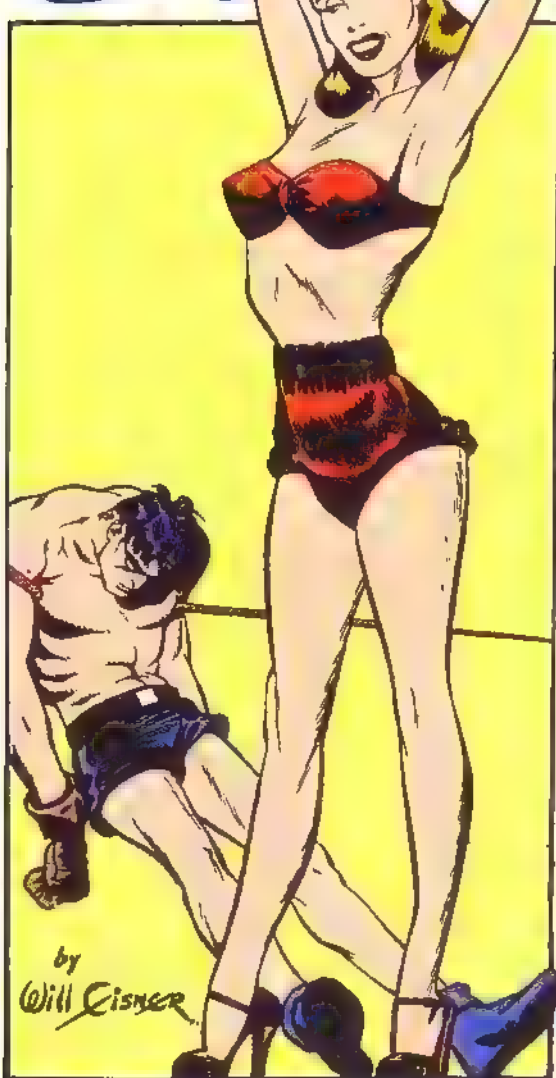


WEREN'T YOU A LITTLE WORRIED EBONY--BEING USED FOR BAIT?

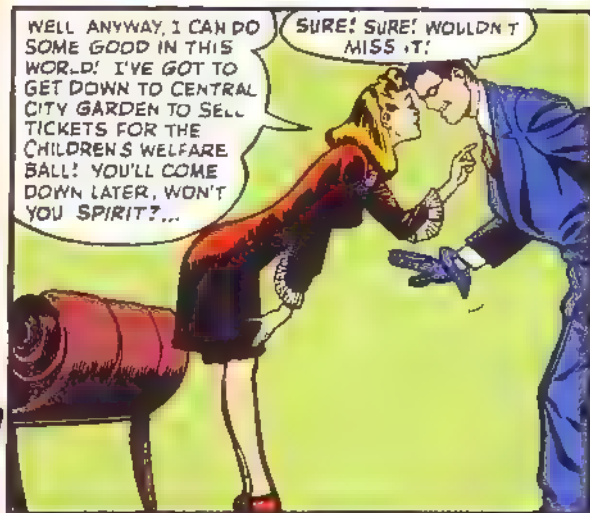
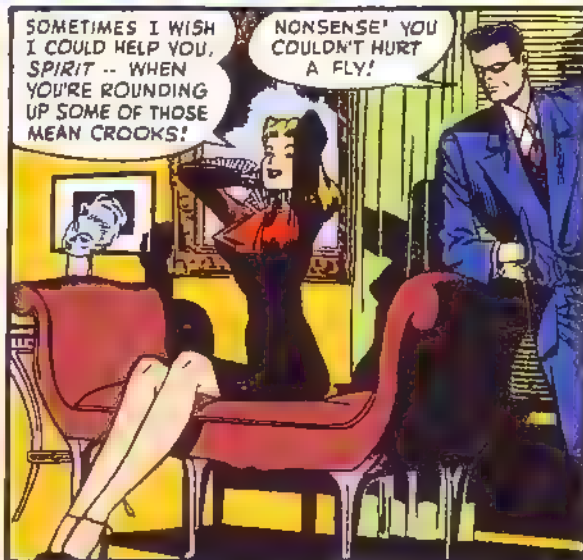
NOT ME! MAH MIST SPIRIT WAS LOOKIN' AFTAH MAH INT RESTS!



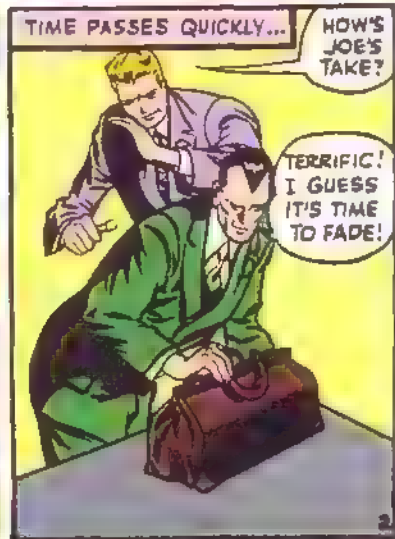
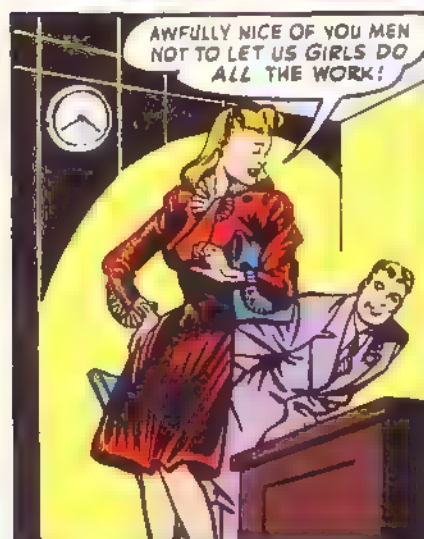
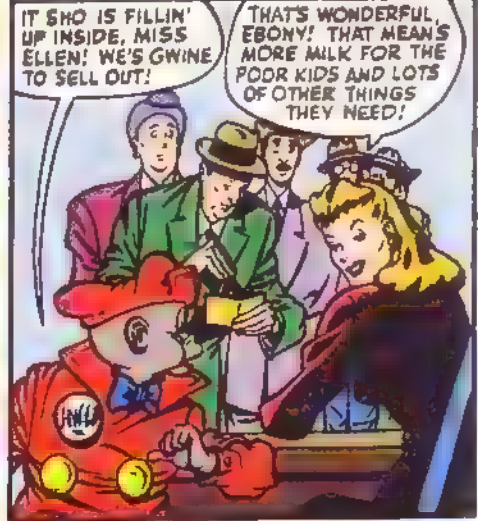
# The SPIRIT

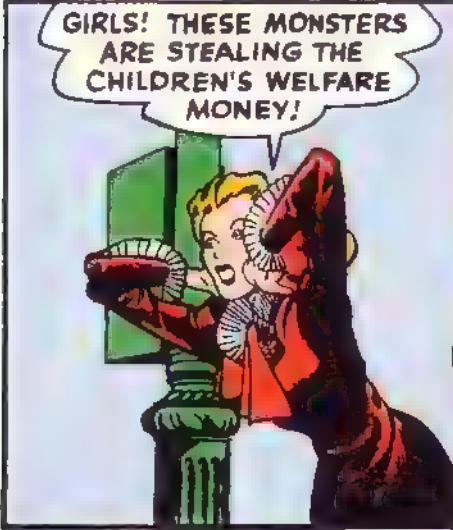
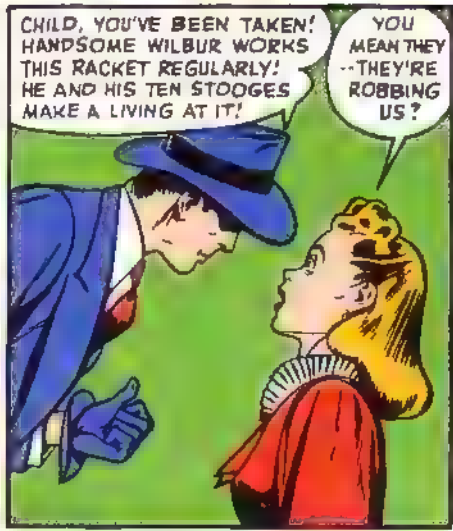
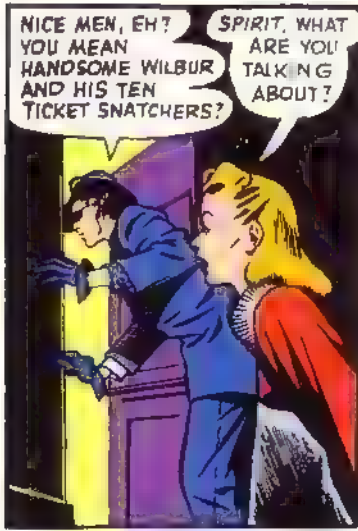
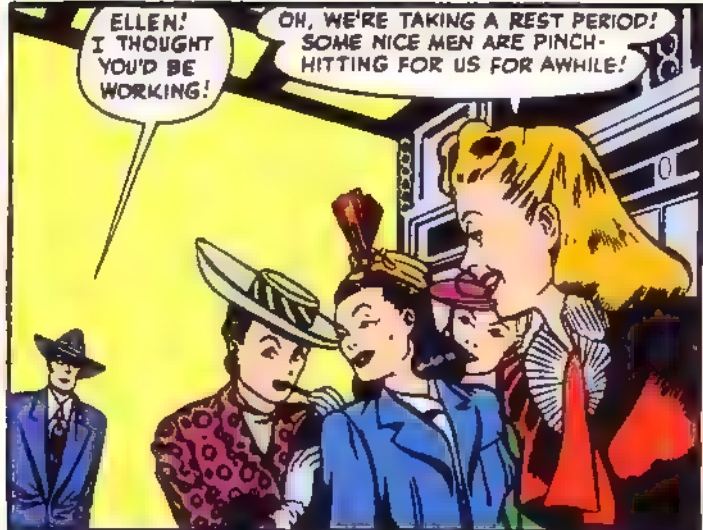
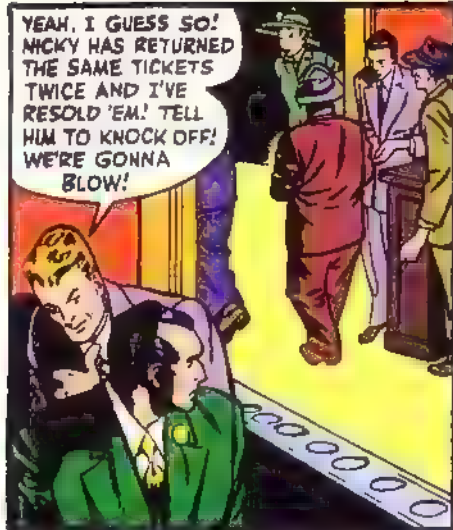


by  
Will Eisner

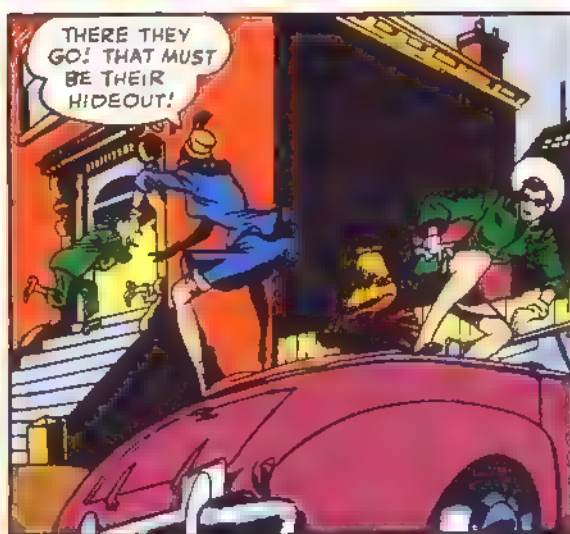
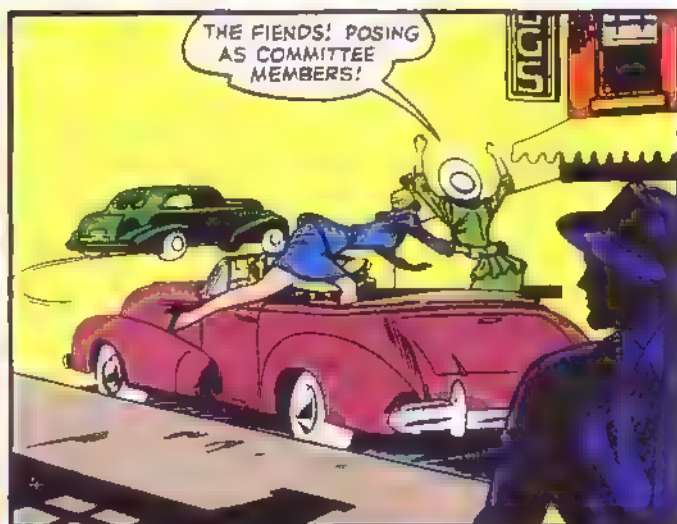
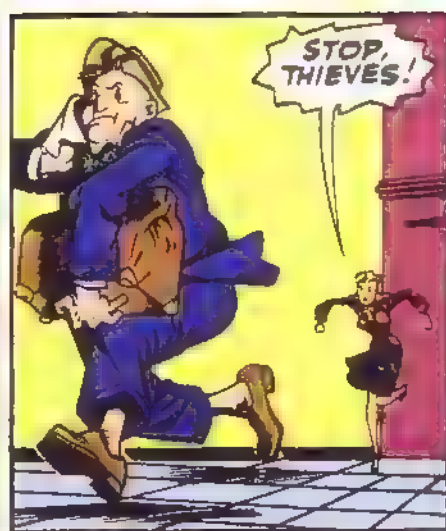


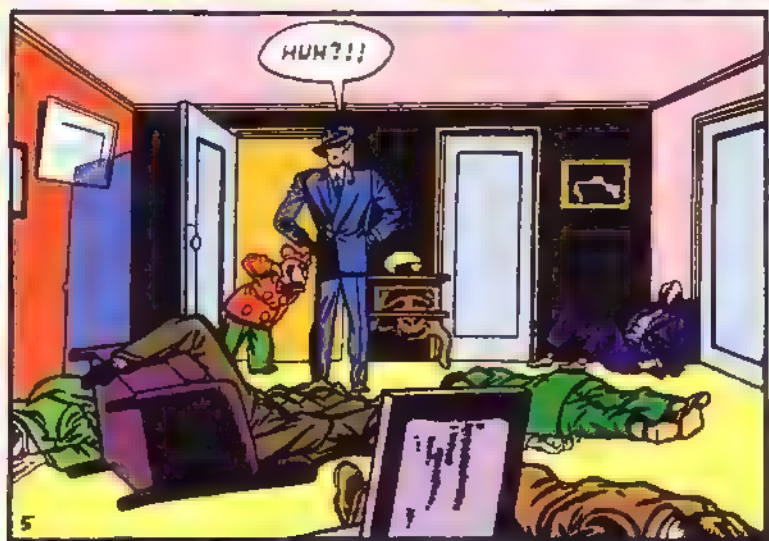
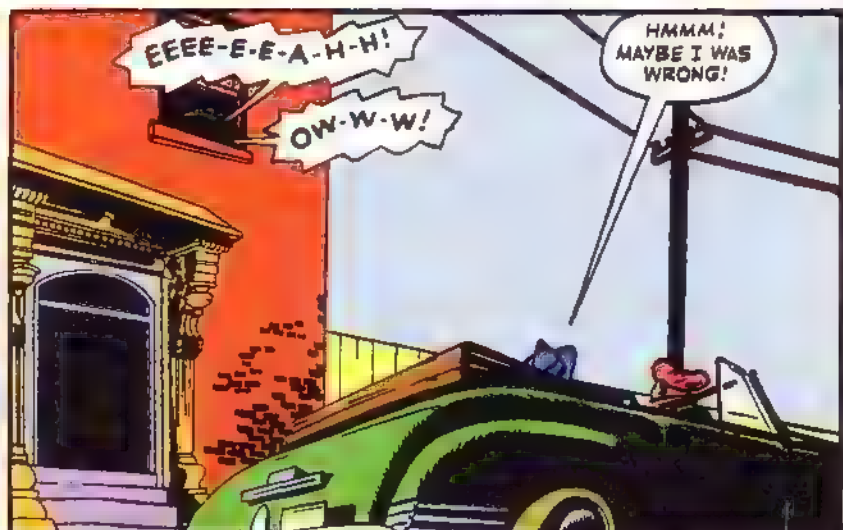
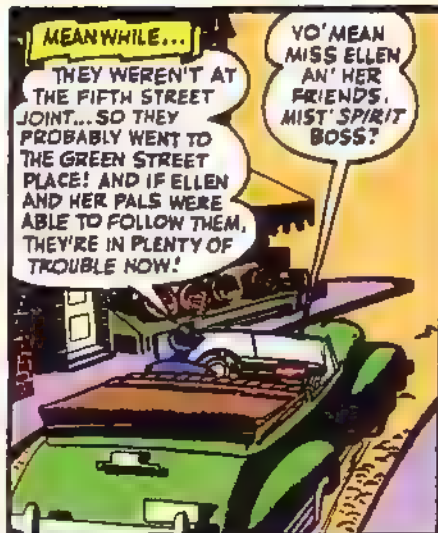
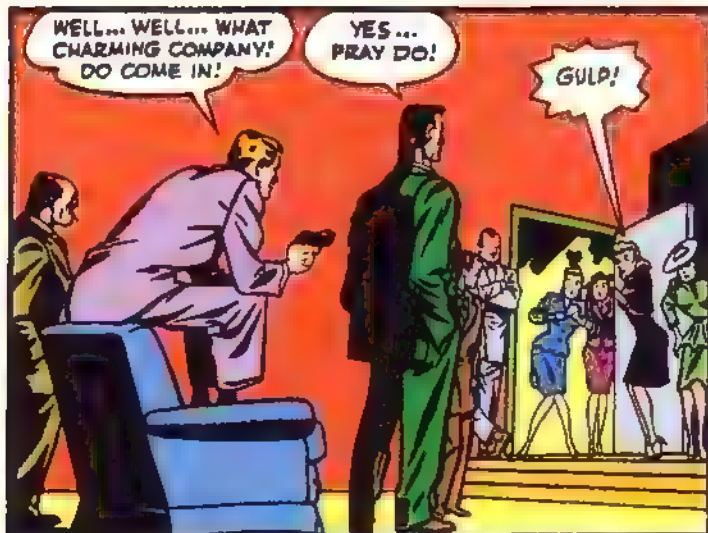




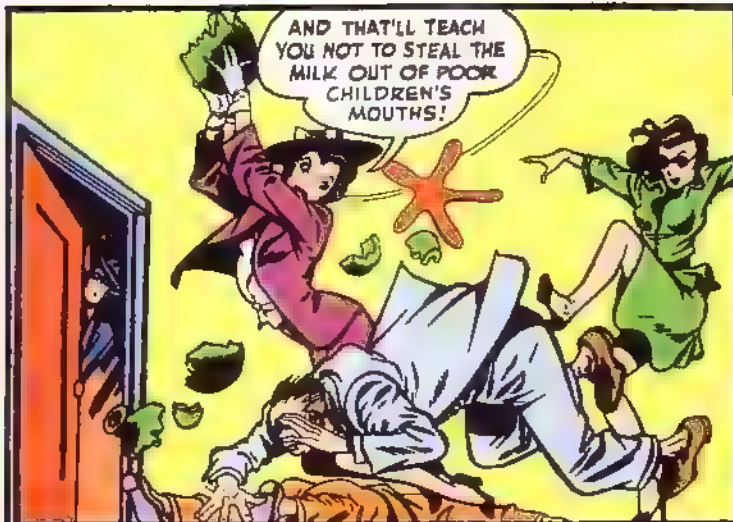


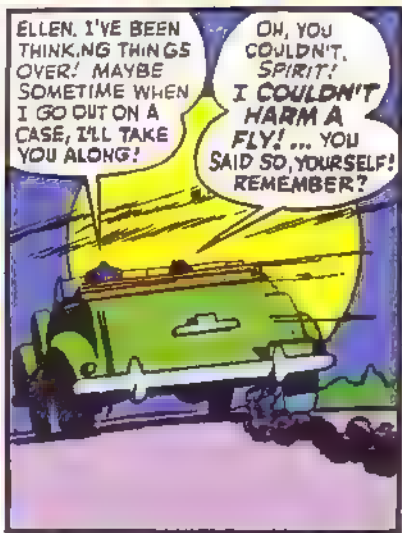
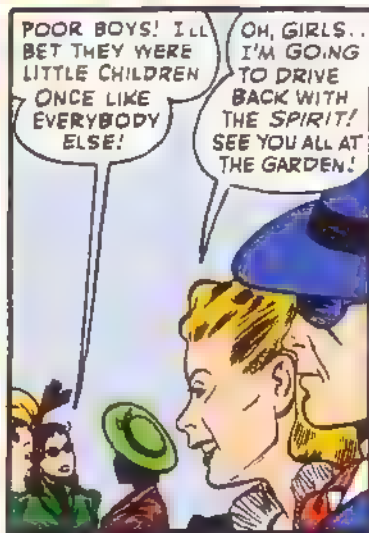
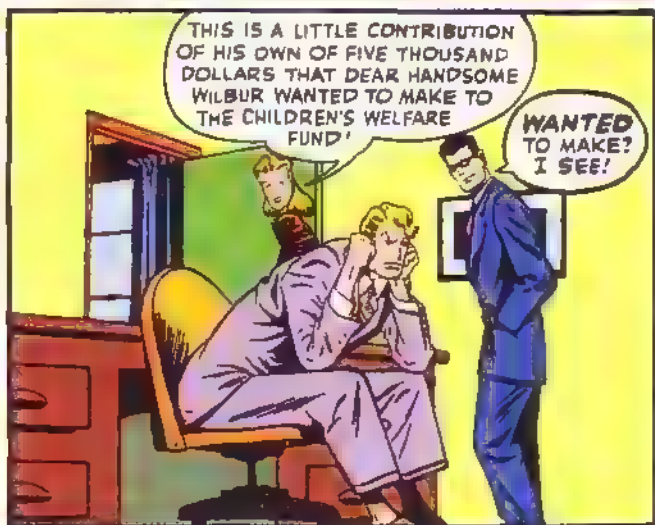
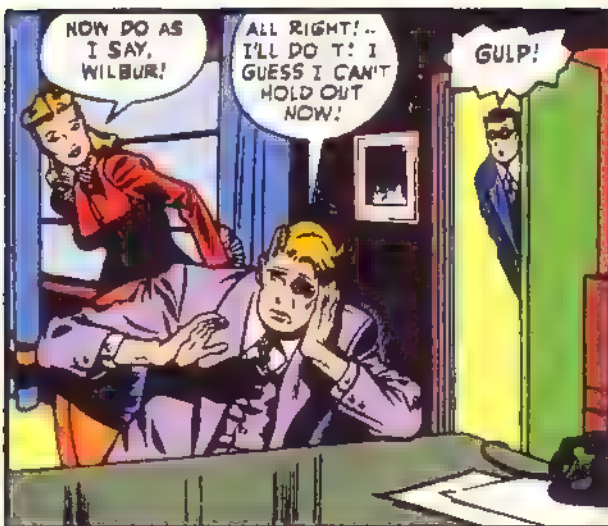






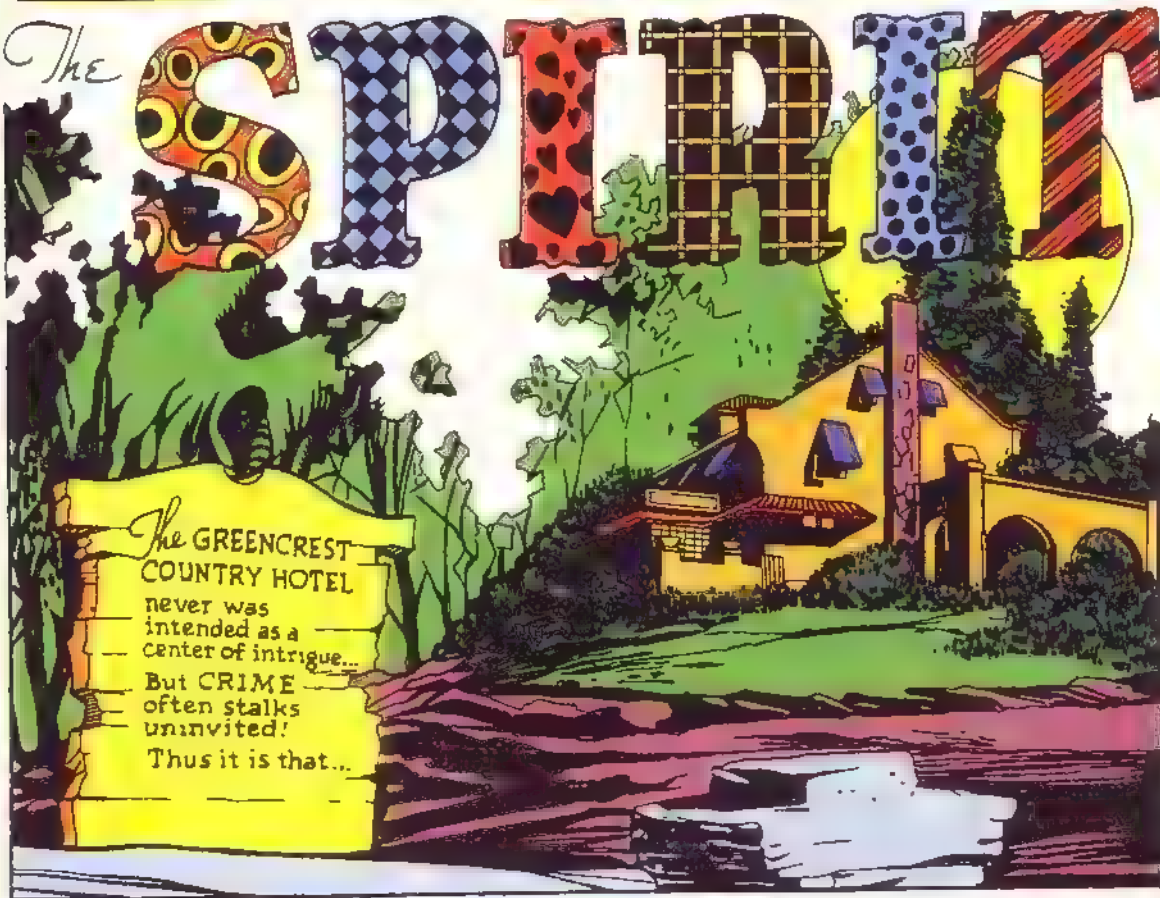








September 3, 1944



The GREENCREST  
COUNTRY HOTEL

never was  
intended as a  
center of intrigue...

But CRIME  
often stalks  
uninvited!

Thus it is that...

TWO ACTORS AT LIBERTY...TUBBS, THE COMIC  
AND FAVERSHAM BURBERRY THE TRAGEDIAN  
...HAVE SOMETHING TO TALK ABOUT!...

I SAW THEM WITH  
MY OWN EYES BURBERRY  
OLD BOY! MISS CADBY'S  
JUST ARRIVED, AND WAS  
UNPACKING WITH THE  
DOOR OPEN!

HMM! THE JEWELS  
WERE GIVEN TO HER  
BY OLD COUNT  
BEETLEWITZ!  
AND GREAT  
ARTISTS LIKE  
OURSELVES CAN'T  
PAY OUR BILLS!

IT'S OBVIOUS WHAT WE MUST DO:  
SLIP UP TO HER ROOM WHEN SHE'S  
OUT AND PINCH THE WHOLE  
CASKETFUL!! THERE'S A  
PAWNSHOP IN THE  
VILLAGE ---

YOU'LL  
GET INTO  
TROUBLE  
YOUNG  
FELLERS!

I HAD THIS TO  
MY EAR--HEARD  
THE WHOLE  
THING! MY  
ADVICE IS  
TO WATCH  
YER STEP!

KEEP YOUR  
ADVICE  
UNTIL IT'S  
ASKED FOR,  
YOU  
FESTOONED  
OLD RELIC!

IF YOU TELL ON US,  
WE'RE TWO TO YOUR  
ONE! WE'LL DENY  
IT AND PUT THE  
BLAME ON  
YOU!

WHO SAID  
ANYTHING  
ABOUT  
TELLIN'!  
I JEST MADE  
A SIMPLE  
SUGGESTION!

THERE SHE  
GOES NOW! UP  
TO HER ROOM,  
QUICK!

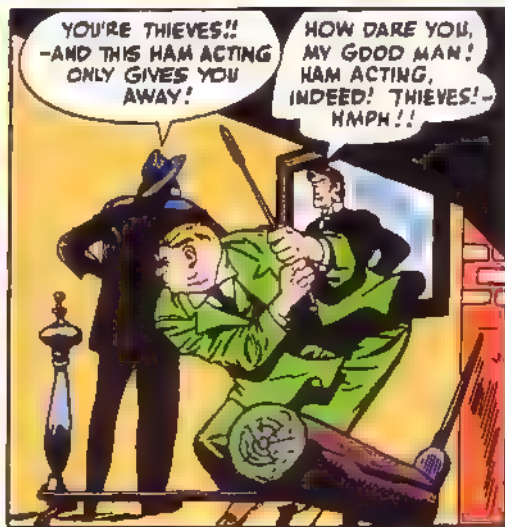
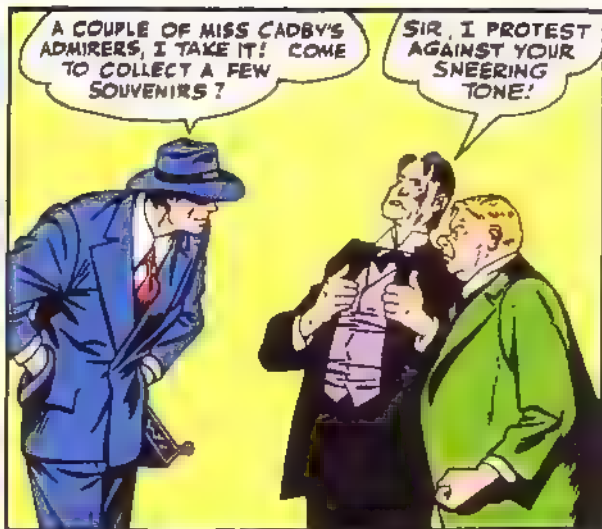
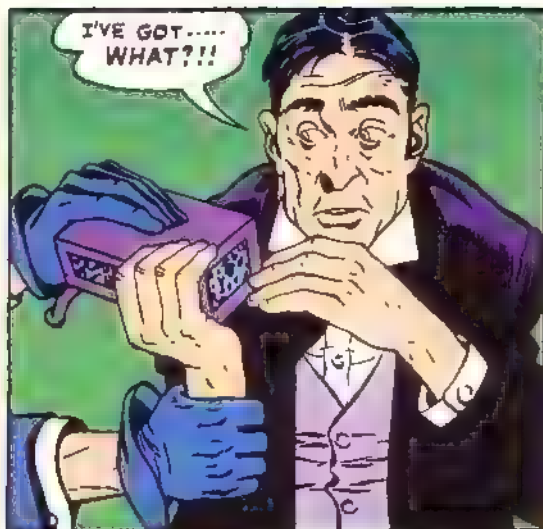
LEAD ON,  
STOUT  
FELLOW!

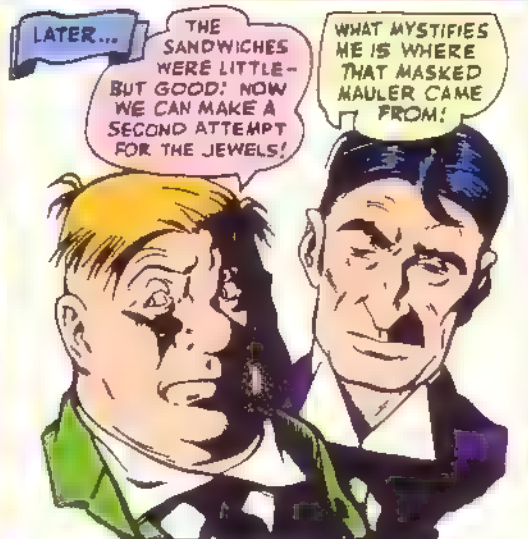
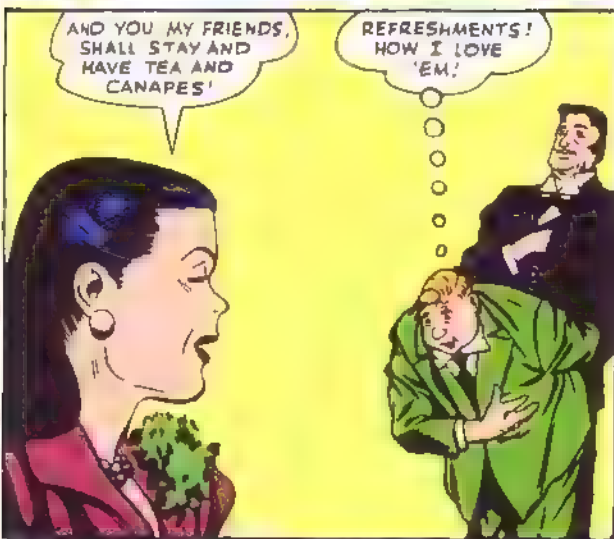
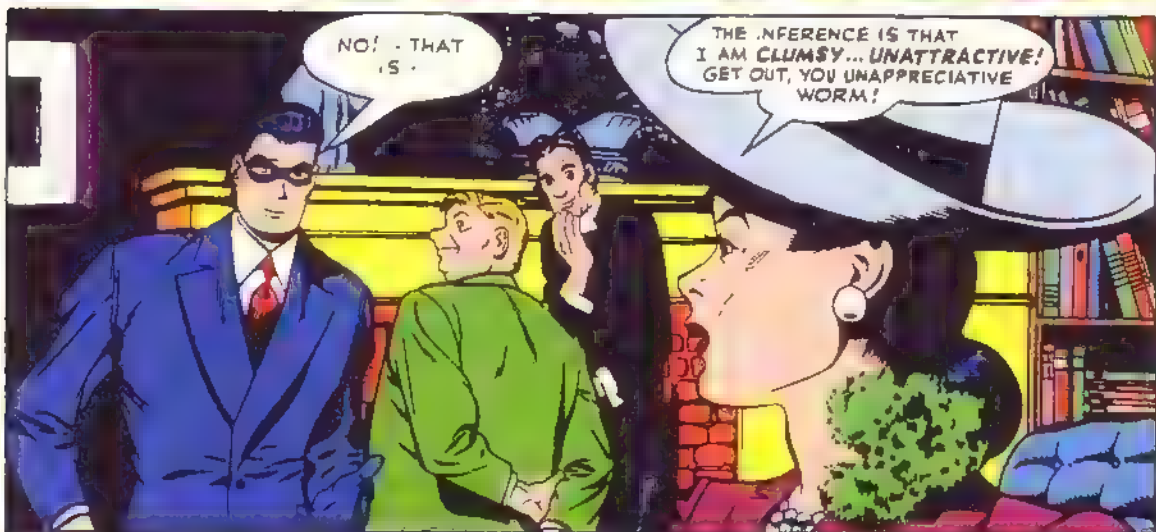
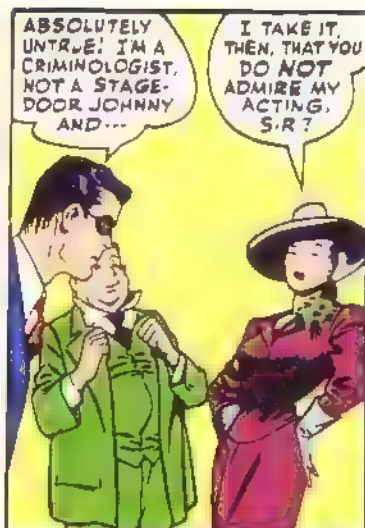
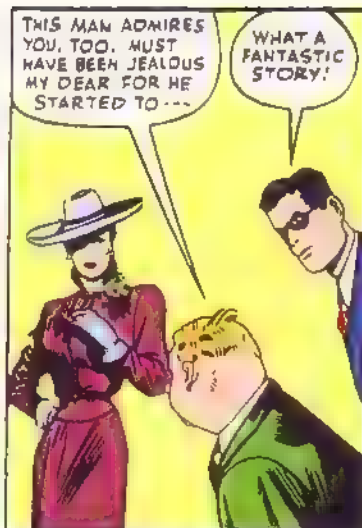
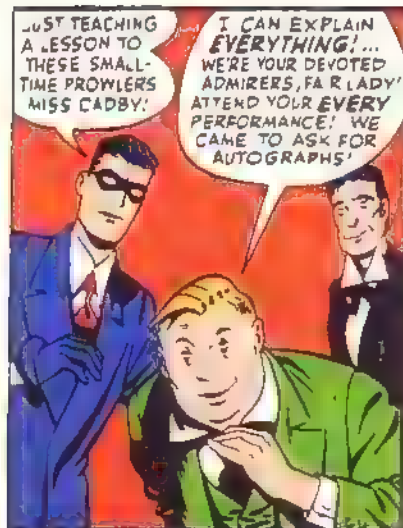
HER DOOR'S  
LOCKED!

I GOT A SKELETON  
KEY FOR -- ER --  
EMERGENCIES! STAND  
ASIDE AND I'LL  
OPEN UP!

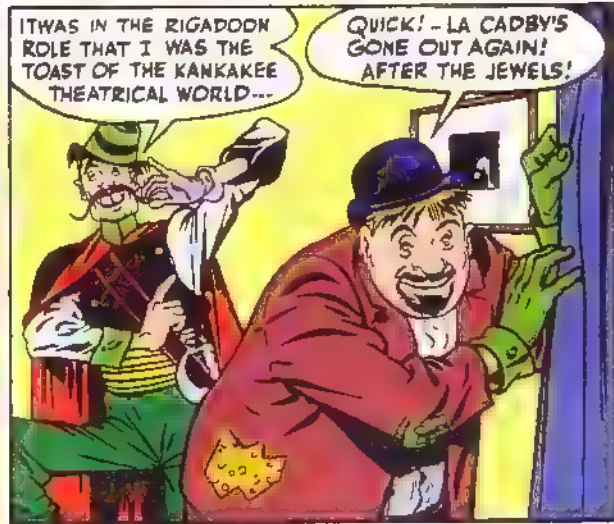
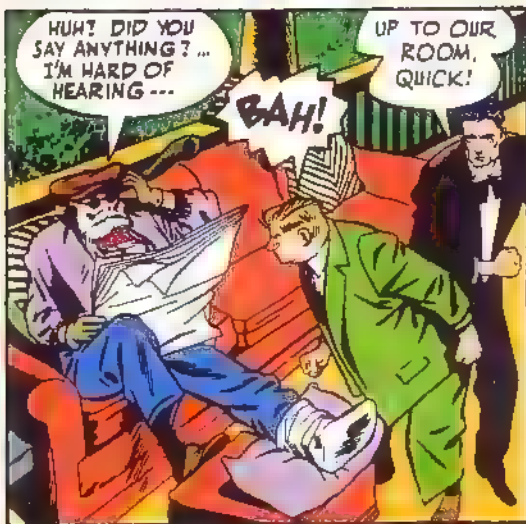
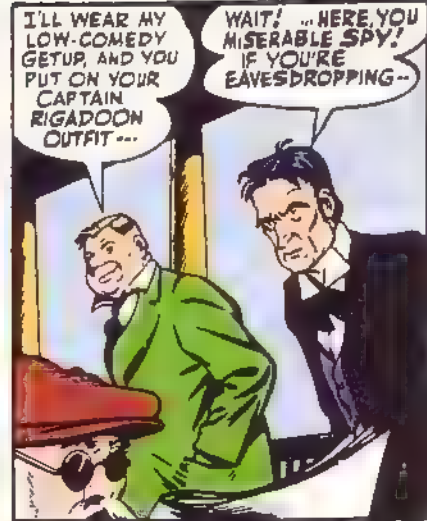
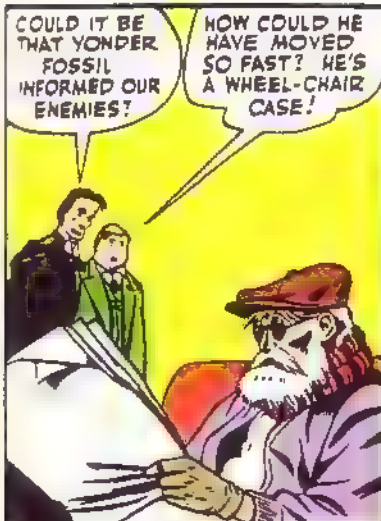
THAT'LL  
BE THE LOOT!  
GRAB IT, BURBERRY,  
MY BUCK!

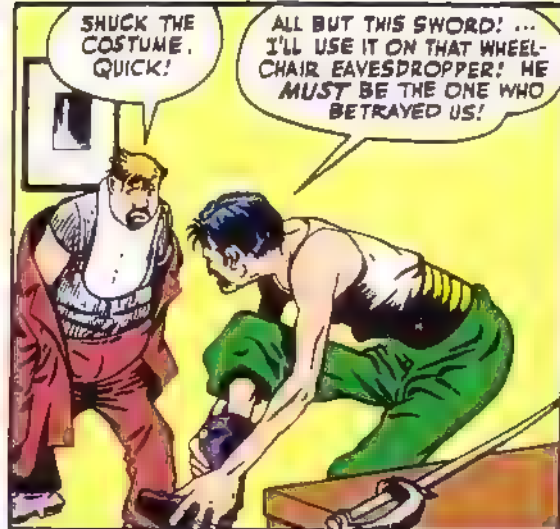




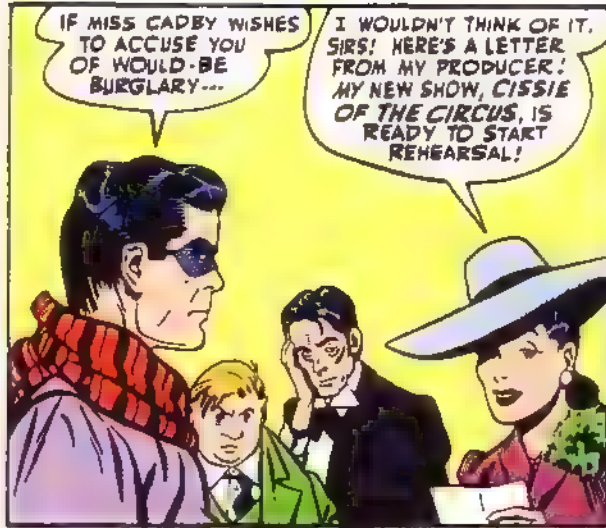












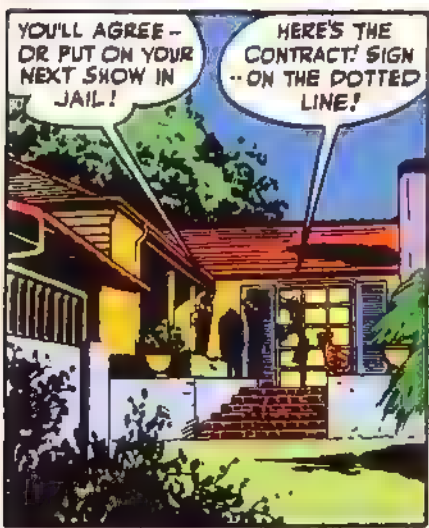
IF MISS CADBY WISHES  
TO ACCUSE YOU  
OF WOULD-BE  
BURGLARY---

I WOULDN'T THINK OF IT,  
SIRS! HERE'S A LETTER  
FROM MY PRODUCER!  
MY NEW SHOW, *CISSIE  
OF THE CIRCUS*, IS  
READY TO START  
REHEARSAL!



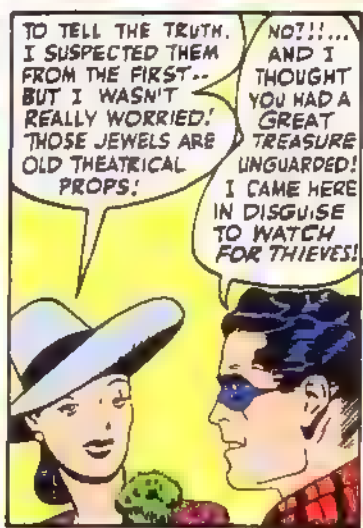
BUT THE MANPOWER  
SHORTAGE MAKES IT HARD  
TO GET TWO STOOGES  
TO PLAY THE *COMEDY  
MULE*! THESE MEN  
WILL DO NICELY!

WHAT? ... A  
TRAGEDIAN OF  
MY REPUTATION  
IN SUCH A  
ROLE? NEVER!



YOU'LL AGREE --  
OR PUT ON YOUR  
NEXT SHOW IN  
JAIL!

HERE'S THE  
CONTRACT! SIGN  
-- ON THE DOTTED  
LINE!



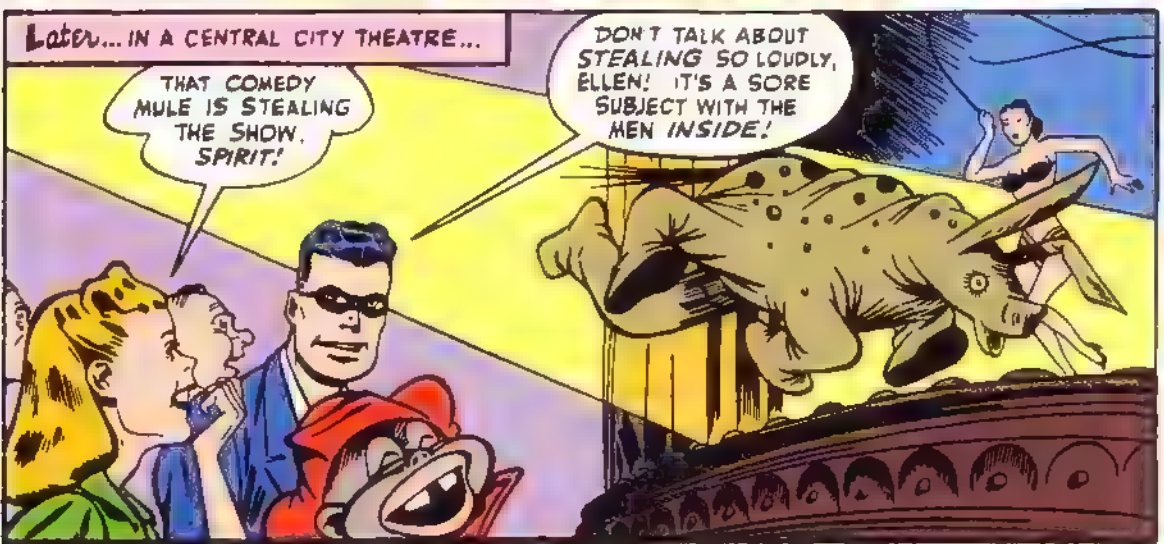
TO TELL THE TRUTH,  
I SUSPECTED THEM  
FROM THE FIRST --  
BUT I WASN'T  
REALLY WORRIED!  
THOSE JEWELS ARE  
OLD THEATRICAL  
PROPS!

NO?!...  
AND I  
THOUGHT  
YOU HAD A  
GREAT  
TREASURE  
UNGUARDED!  
I CAME HERE  
IN DISGUISE  
TO WATCH  
FOR THIEVES!



I'M SORRY FOR  
YOUR TROUBLE!  
LET ME SEND  
YOU SOME  
TICKETS FOR  
MY NEW  
SHOW!

THAT I WANT  
TO SEE --  
WITH  
*BURBERRY  
AND TUBBS*  
PLAYING  
THE *MULE*!



Later... IN A CENTRAL CITY THEATRE...

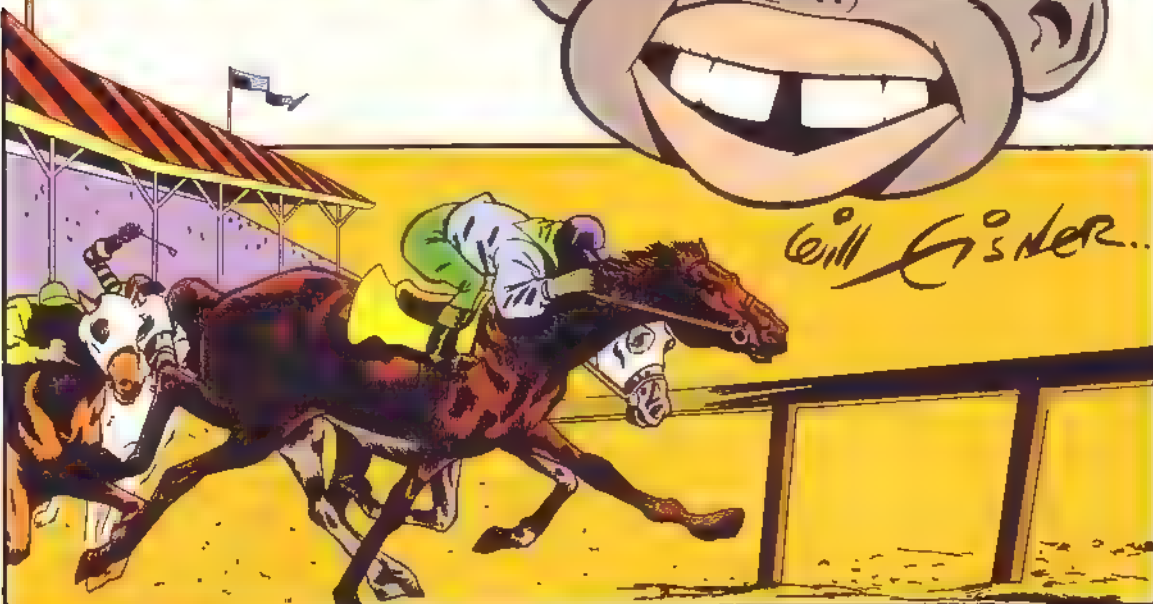
THAT *COMEDY  
MULE* IS STEALING  
THE SHOW,  
SPIRIT!

DON'T TALK ABOUT  
STEALING SO LOUDLY,  
ELLEN! IT'S A SORE  
SUBJECT WITH THE  
MEN INSIDE!

# THE SPIRIT



*Will Eisner..*



WHERE DO YOU THINK YOU'RE GOING AT FIVE O'CLOCK IN THE MORNING?

AH'S GOT ME A JOB, MIST' SPIRIT BOSS, AND AH HAS TO BE THERE EARLY!



WHAT KIND OF A JOB?

ER GUESS YO' MIGHT CALL IT A VALET'S JOB!



A VALET'S JOB? WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT BEING A VALET?

PARTY AH WORKS FO' THINKS AH'S PRETTY GOOD!





I HAVE TO BE PLENTY  
CURIOUS TO GET OUT  
OF BED AT FIVE  
MYSELF!



WHEW... WHAT A HIKE!  
EBONY'S BOSS MUST  
LIVE OUT IN THE  
WOODS!



A  
RACETRACK!



WHAT  
THE--??

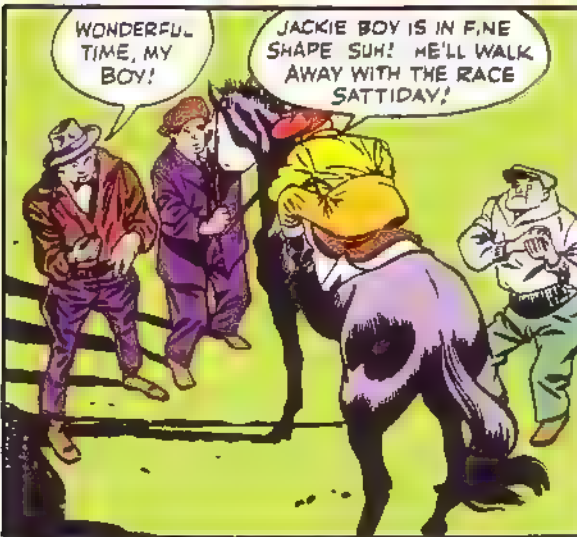


WELL, WILL  
WONDERS NEVER  
CEASE?!!!



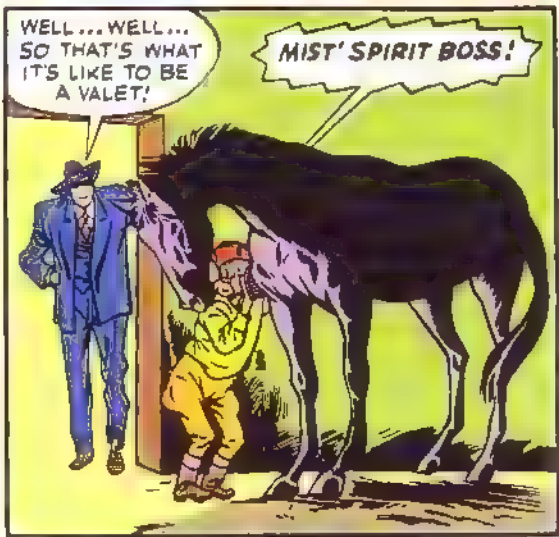
WONDERFUL  
TIME, MY  
BOY!

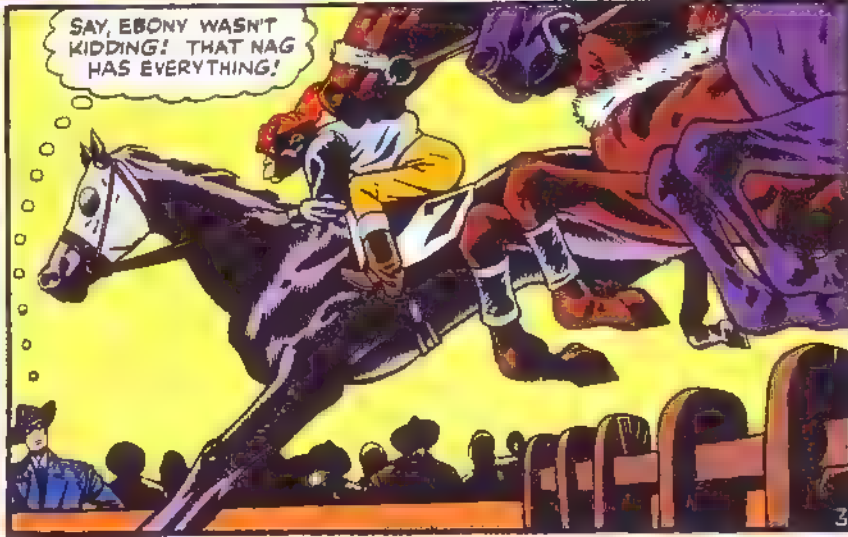
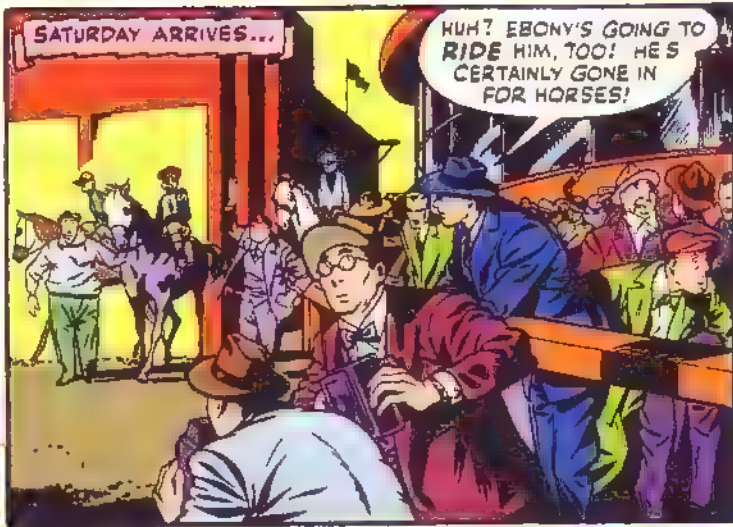
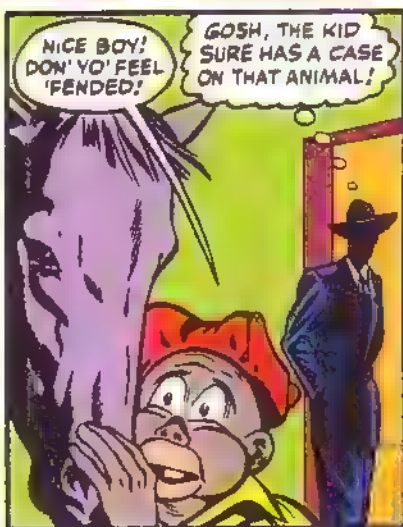
JACKIE BOY IS IN FINE  
SHAPE SUH! HE'LL WALK  
AWAY WITH THE RACE  
SATTIDAY!



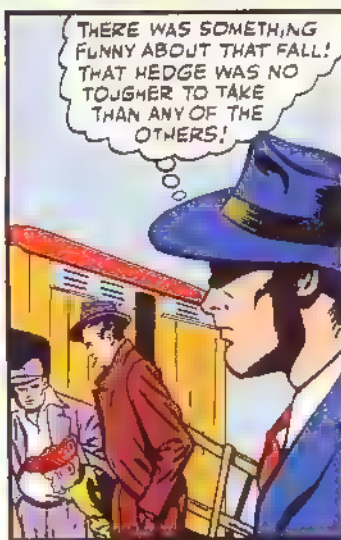
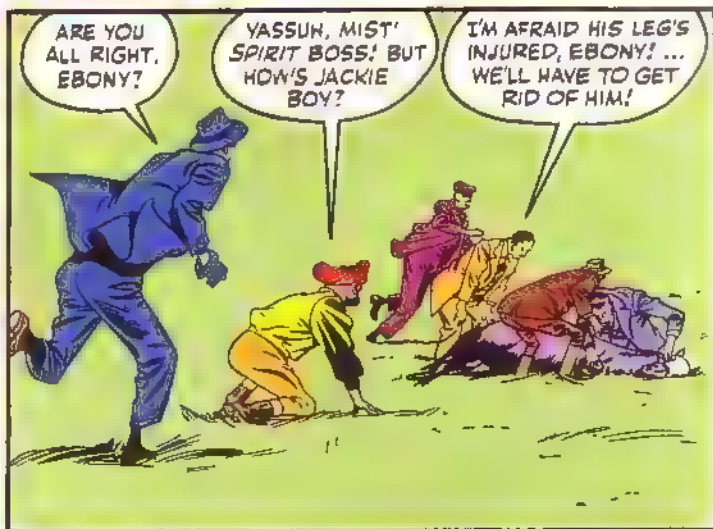
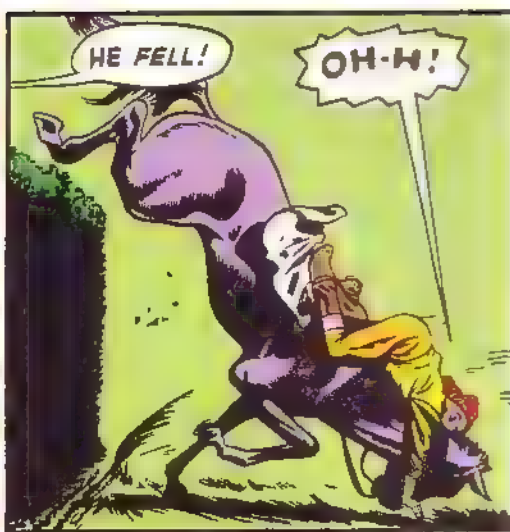
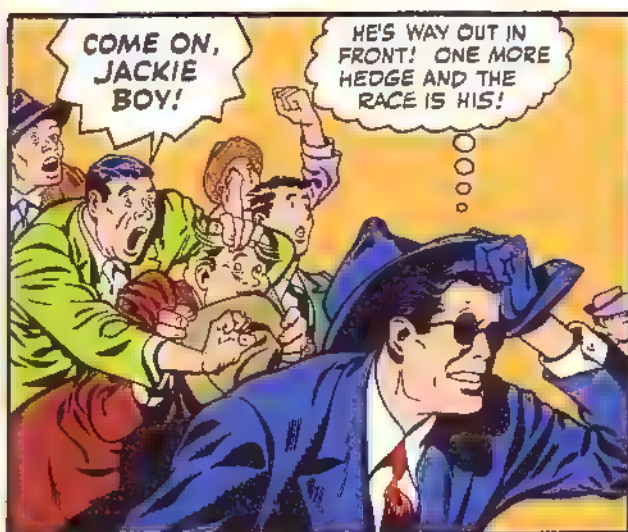
WELL...WELL...  
SO THAT'S WHAT  
IT'S LIKE TO BE  
A VALET!

MIST' SPIRIT BOSS!





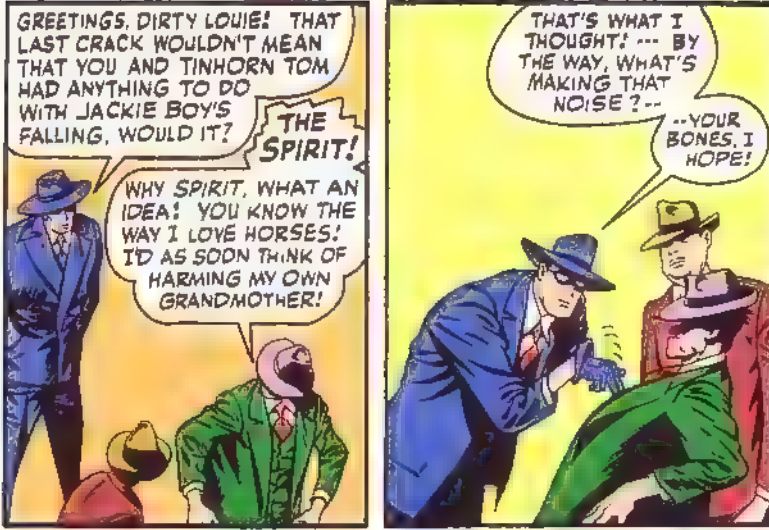




GREETINGS, DIRTY LOUIE! THAT LAST CRACK WOULDN'T MEAN THAT YOU AND TINHORN TOM HAD ANYTHING TO DO WITH JACKIE BOY'S FALLING, WOULD IT?

**THE SPIRIT!**

WHY SPIRIT, WHAT AN IDEA! YOU KNOW THE WAY I LOVE HORSES! I'D AS SOON THINK OF HARMING MY OWN GRANDMOTHER!



THAT'S WHAT I THOUGHT! --- BY THE WAY, WHAT'S MAKING THAT NOISE? ---

--YOUR BONES, I HOPE!



AW, SPIRIT! NOW Y' BUSTED MY HAND MIRROR! HOWM I GONNA COMB ME HAIR AND KEEP UP APPEARANCES WITHOUT IT?

WHAT?... DIRTY LOUIE COMBING HIS HAIR? TIMES SURE HAVE CHANGED!



WELL I SUPPOSE I CAN'T PIN ANYTHING ON THEM JUST BECAUSE THEY BACKED BROWN FRIAR!

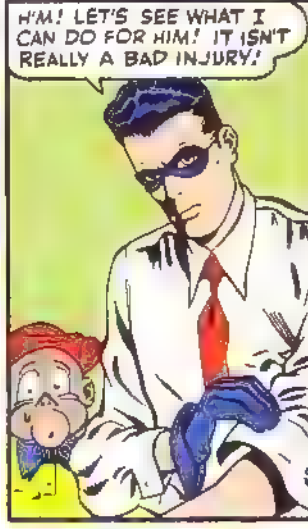


OW-W-W-W! SO NOW MY HOME IS A HORSE HOSPITAL!

BUT, MIST' SPIRIT BOSS ... AH HAD NOWHERE ELSE TO TAKE HIM! EV YBODY SAID HE OUGHT TO BE SHOT!

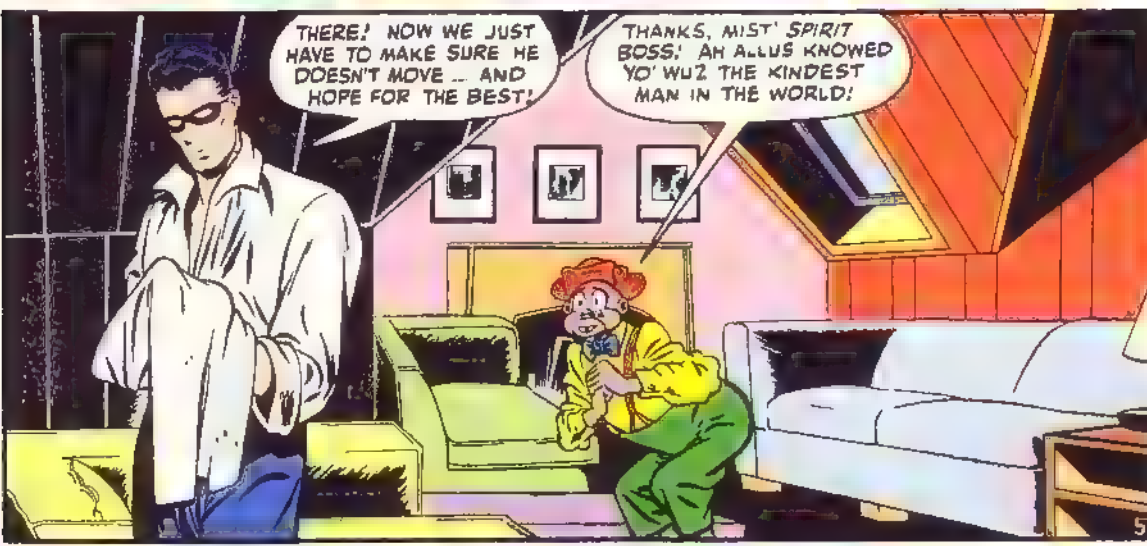


H'M! LET'S SEE WHAT I CAN DO FOR HIM! IT ISN'T REALLY A BAD INJURY!



THERE! NOW WE JUST HAVE TO MAKE SURE HE DOESN'T MOVE ... AND HOPE FOR THE BEST!

THANKS, MIST' SPIRIT BOSS! AH ALLUS KNOWN YO' WUZ THE KINDEST MAN IN THE WORLD!





TIME PASSES SLOWLY... BUT ONE DAY...

HE'S FINE, MIST'  
SPIRIT BOSS!  
JES' FINE!

RIGHT, EBONY!  
I'VE ALREADY  
ENTERED HIM IN  
NEXT SATURDAY'S  
STEEPLECHASE!

MIST' SPIRIT BOSS,  
YO' WON'T BE  
SORRY! JACKIE  
BOY'LL WALK  
AWAY WIT' DAT  
RACE!

SATURDAY...

I'M NOT BACKING  
JACKIE BOY THIS  
TIME! HE FELL  
ONCE AND  
PROBABLY  
WILL AGAIN!

THAT'S  
WHAT HE  
THINKS!

DIRTY LOUIE AND TINHORN  
TOM AGAIN! CARELESS  
OF LOUIE TO EXPOSE  
HIS CONCEALED  
WEAPONS!

I'LL TAKE IT JUST  
FOR THE LAUGHS! IT'LL  
BE FUN WATCHING LOUIE'S  
FACE WHEN I RETURN  
IT TO HIM LATER!

THEY'RE  
OFF!

EBONY'S GOT THE  
LEAD AGAIN! ...  
COME ON, JACKIE  
BOY!

THEY CAN'T GET NEAR HIM! EBONY'S GOING TO WIN IT!



UH-OH!  
SO THAT'S IT!



LOUIE WON'T WANT TO LOOK INTO THAT MIRROR ANYWAY WHEN I GET THROUGH WITH HIM!



JACKIE BOY WINS!  
HOORAY!

THAT WAS CLOSER THAN IT SEEMED!



YOU ALMOST SOLD ME YOUR STORY LAST TIME, DIRTY LOUIE! BUT THIS TIME I SAW YOU TRYING TO FLASH THAT MIRROR IN JACKIE BOY'S EYES!



MIST' SPIRIT BOSS! WE DONE IT!

NICE GOING, EBONY! I'M PAYING OFF THESE TWO LADS FOR MAKING YOU LOSE LAST TIME! IT WAS A LITTLE TRICK DONE WITH MIRRORS!



SO THAT'S THE WAY IT HAPPENED! IN THAT CASE, AH RECKON AH OWES THEM SUMP'N, MAHSELF!



OH, HERE'S YOUR GUN BEFORE I FORGET, LOUIE! I'LL TELL THE COPS TO PICK YOU UP WHEN WE GO DOWN TO COLLECT JACKIE BOY'S WINNINGS!





COMIC  
BOOK  
SECTION

WHO KILLED COP ROBIN

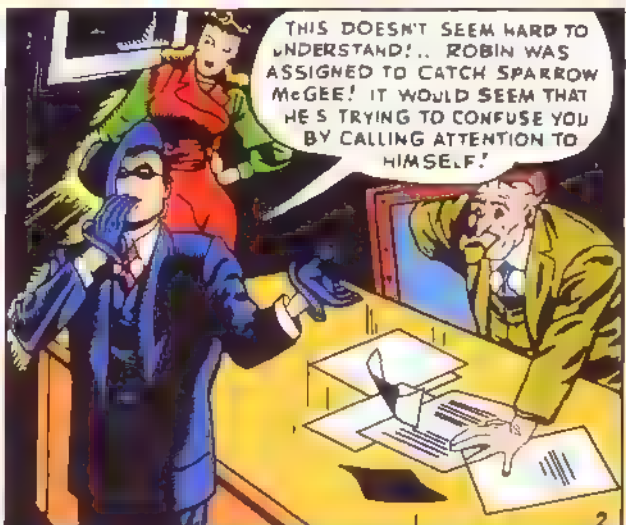
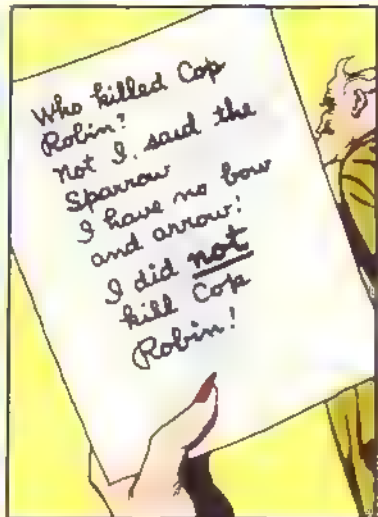
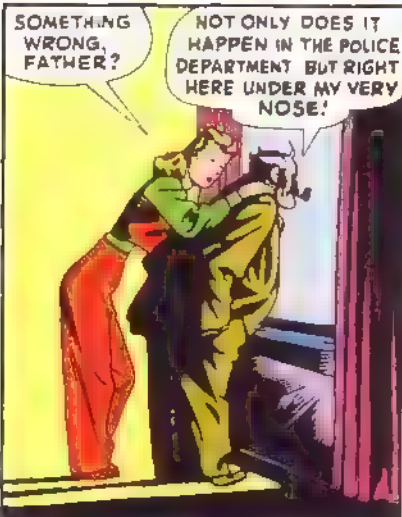
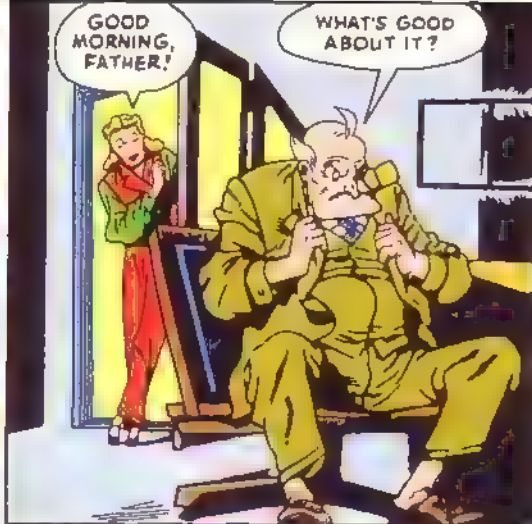
September 17, 1944

ACTION  
Mystery  
ADVENTURE

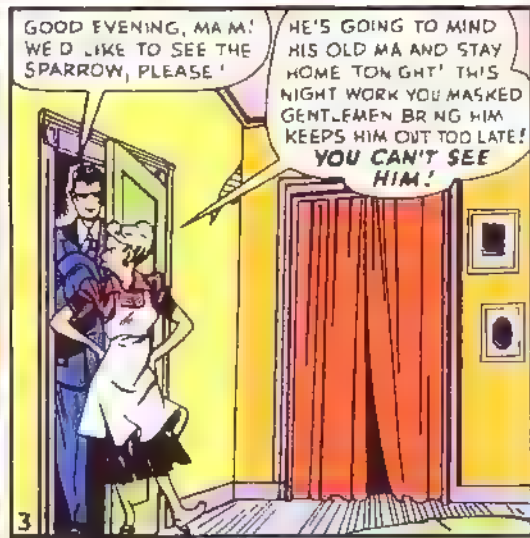
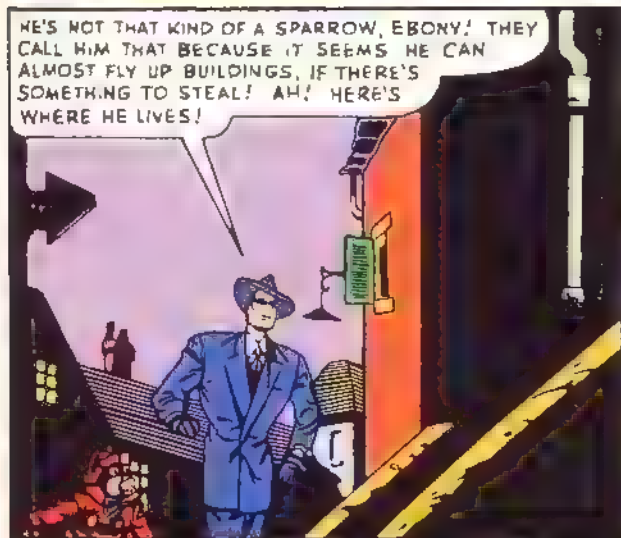
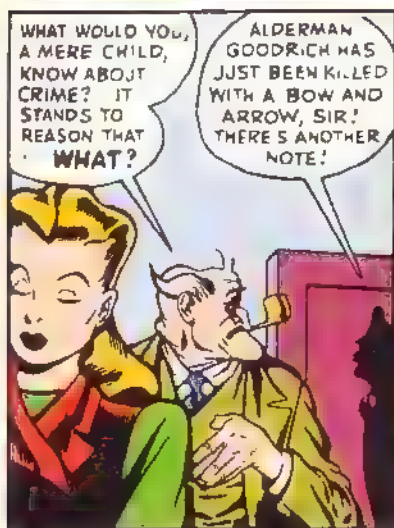
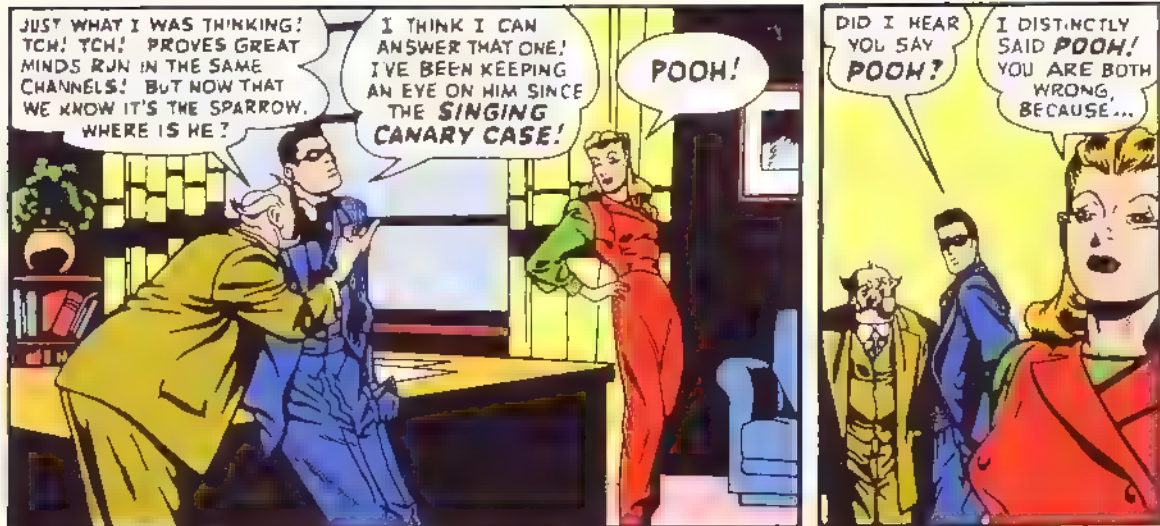
# THE SPIRIT

PICK ON A POOR  
DEFENSELESS GIRL,  
WILL YOU?









A MURDERING THUG WHO  
WRITES NURSERY RHYMES  
AND MINDS H.S. MOTHER!  
-- WOW!



MEANWHILE AT POLICE HEADQUARTERS...

BUT FATHER! I  
TELL YOU THE  
SPIRIT IS  
WRONG!



THAT WOULD BE THE LAST  
STRAW - MAKE A LAUGHING  
STOCK OF ME! I TELL YOU  
I'M TAKING A PROW. CAR  
DOWN THERE TO BE IN  
ON THIS CAPTURE!



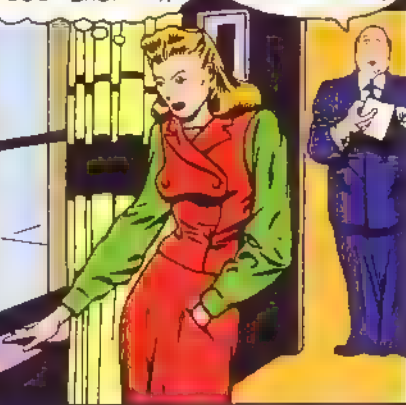
COP ROBIN WAS  
KILLED IN THE POLICE  
LOCKER ROOM R GHT  
HERE BELOW DADDY'S  
OFFICE! ALDERMAN  
GOODRICH'S OFFICE  
IS JUST ABOVE!



THE ARROW HAD TO BE SHOT  
FROM SOME NEARBY SPOT ON  
THIS SIDE OF THE BUILDING!  
HMMM! I WONDER...!!  
NOW THIS BOOK SHOP !!



HERE IS THE NOTE  
THAT WAS WRAPPED  
AROUND THE ARROW!  
YOUR FATHER WILL  
WANT TO SEE Y!



ALDERMAN GOODRICH  
SAT ON A WALL ALDERMAN  
GOODRICH HAD A GREAT  
FALL ...

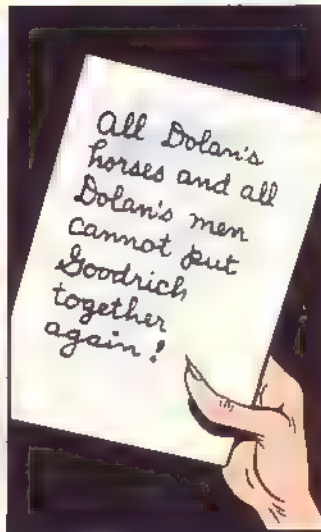
HMMM! HOW  
DOES THIS APPLY  
TO HIM?



I MAY BE ON  
THE WRONG TRACK  
BUT... YIPE!



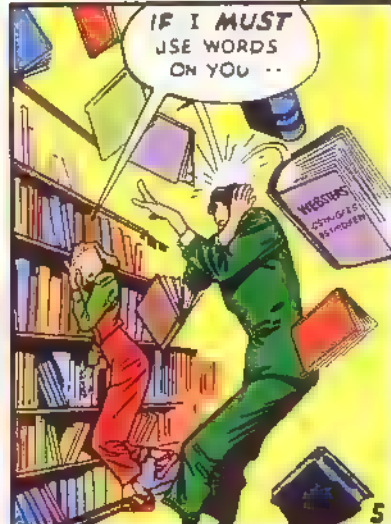
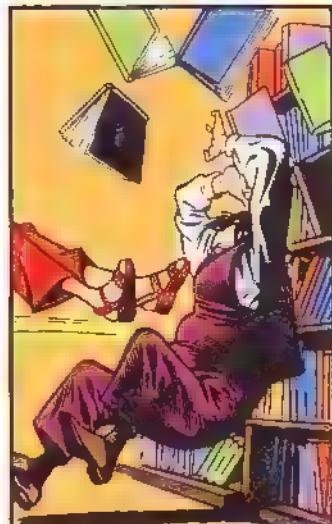
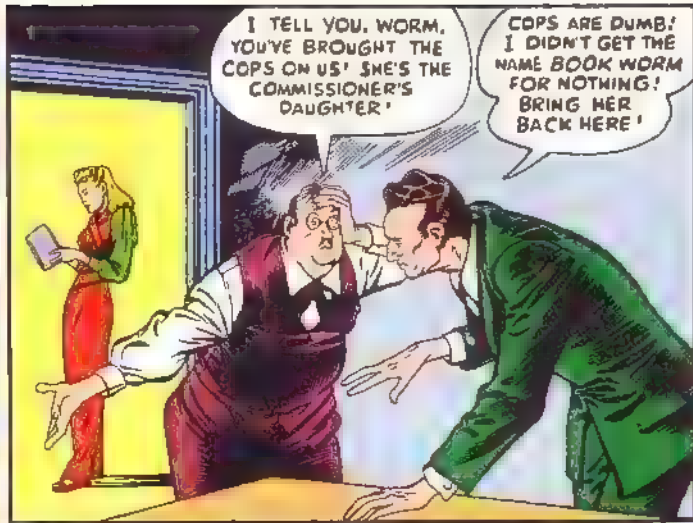
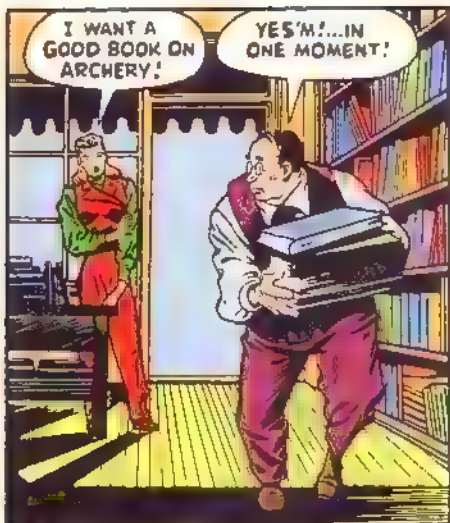
All Dolan's  
horses and all  
Dolan's men  
cannot put  
Goodrich  
together  
again!

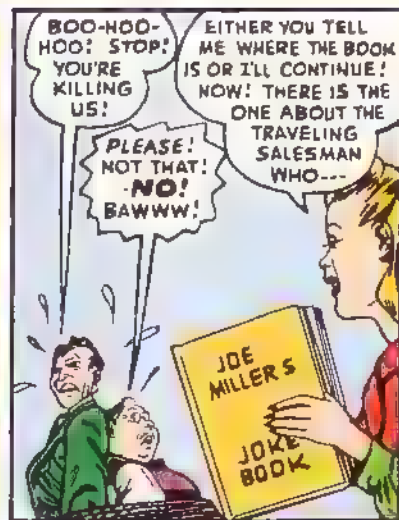


NOW I AM MAD!  
THEY'RE CHALLENGING  
MY FATHER'S POLICE  
DEPARTMENT!

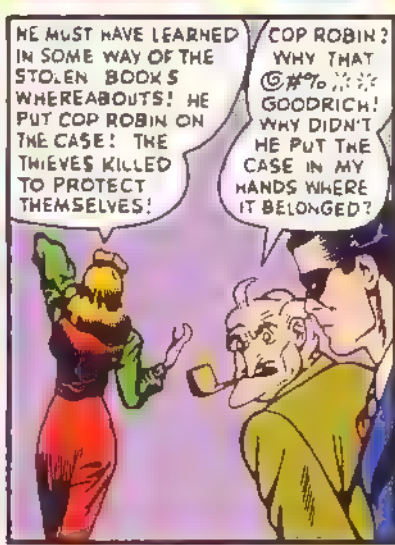
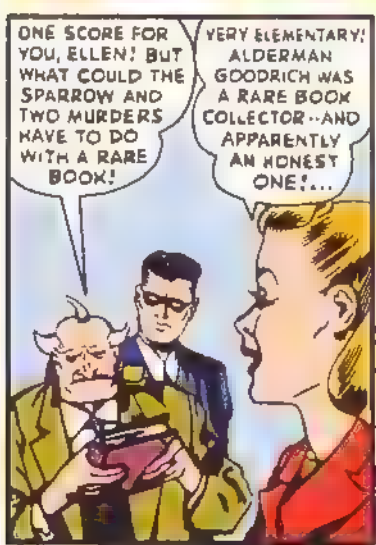
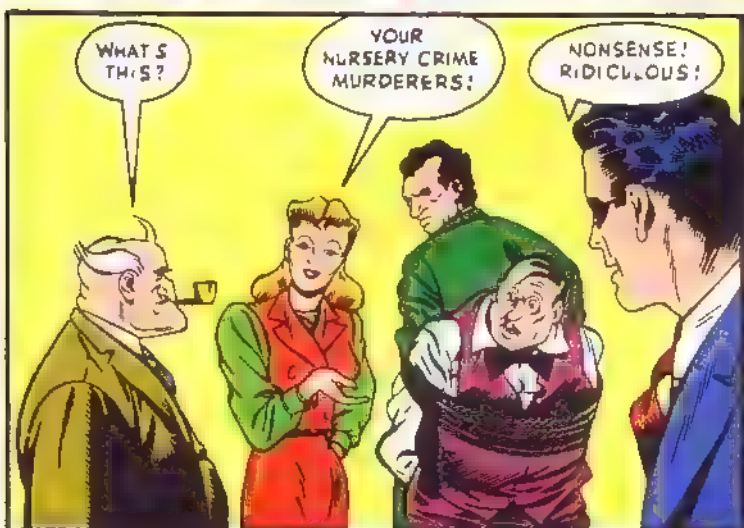
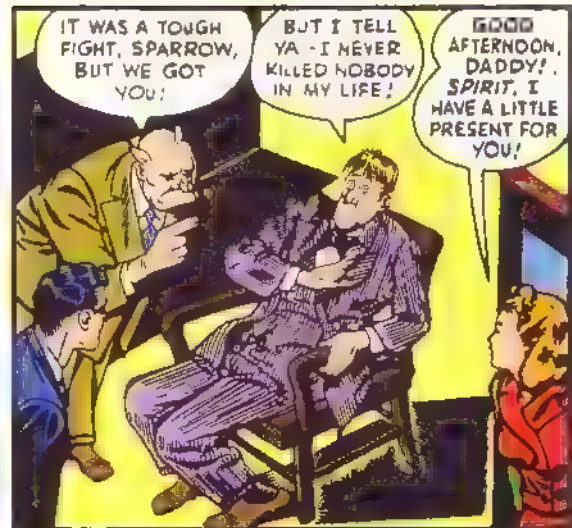












# THE CASE OF THE HEADLESS BURGLAR

September 24, 1944

The police files of Central City called this "The Case of The Headless Burglar"... but the **SPiRiT** argued that it took a head, and a good one, to know the value of the Von Gelt diamonds! This reasoning set him off on the track of one of his weirdest adventures!

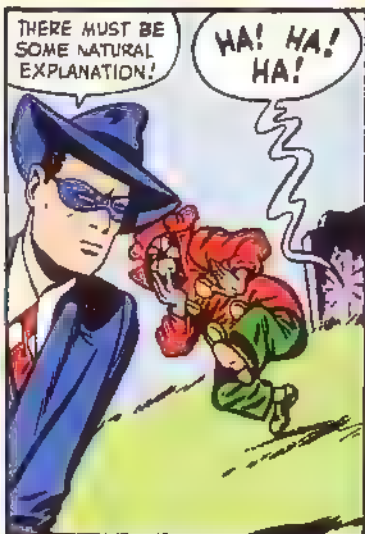




AT WILDWOOD CEMETERY, HOME OF THE SPIRIT...

SHADES OF  
WASHINGTON IRVING!  
WHAT'S THAT??

YOW! WE'D BETTAH  
MOVE TO ANOTHAAH PLACE.  
MIST' SPIRIT BOSS!



SPEAKING OF THE  
**HEADLESS  
BURGLAR,**  
JUST WHERE  
WERE **YOU**  
THIS EVENING?



LOOKING FOR A  
HEADLESS COP TO  
CHASE THE  
HEADLESS  
BURGLAR!

DON'T TRY TO BE  
FUNNY! THAT GUY  
GOT AWAY WITH  
THE VON GELT  
DIAMONDS  
TONIGHT!



WHEW! AND  
YOU SAY HE'S  
**HEADLESS!**  
IT TAKES A  
**GOOD** HEAD  
TO DO A BIT  
OF WORK  
LIKE THAT!

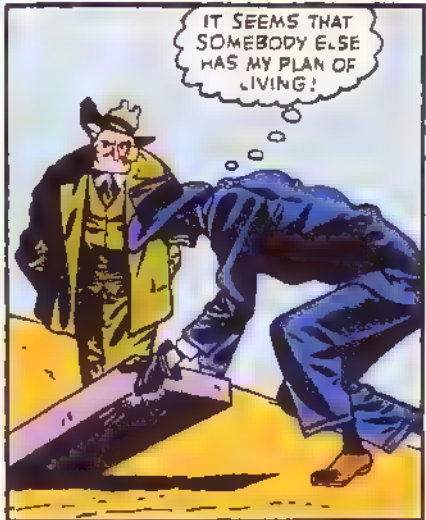
THAT DOESN'T  
EXPLAIN  
WHERE YOU  
WERE!



KEEP YOUR LAUNDRY  
ON! I THINK WE  
HAVE YOUR HEADLESS  
ONE TRAPPED IN  
HERE! I'LL TAKE  
YOU TO HIM!



THIS  
IS THE  
PLACE!

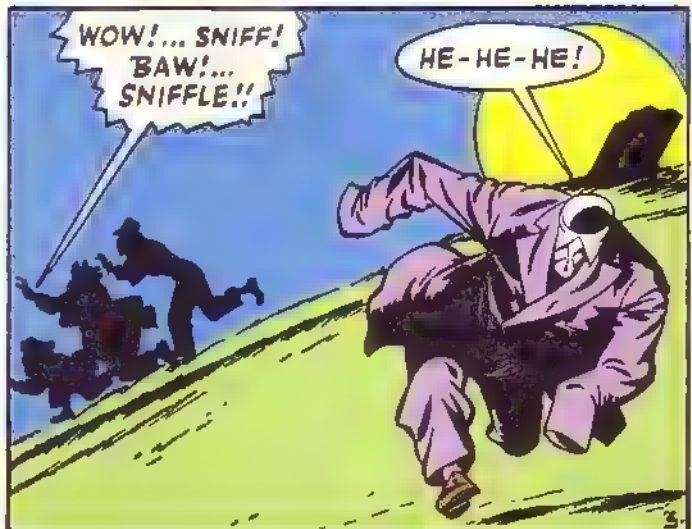


IT SEEMS THAT  
SOMEBODY ELSE  
HAS MY PLAN OF  
LIVING!



LOOK  
OUT!  
GAS!!

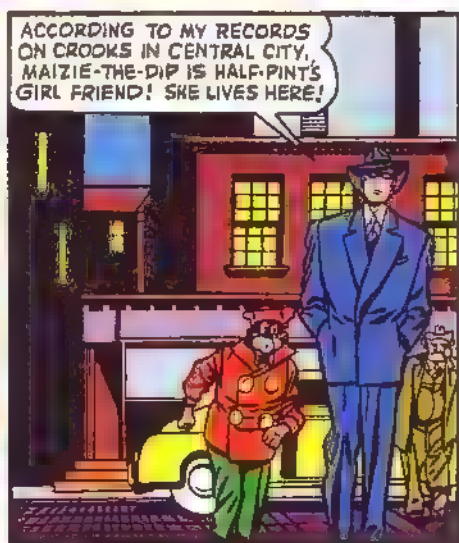
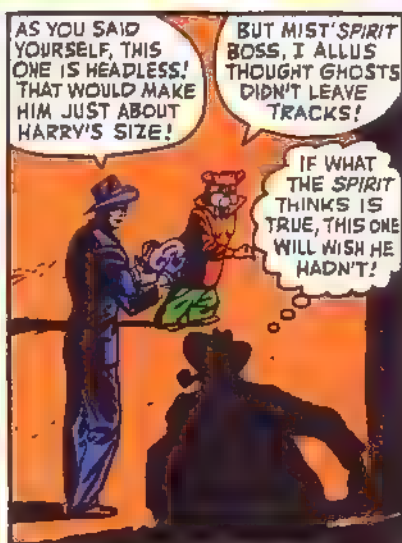
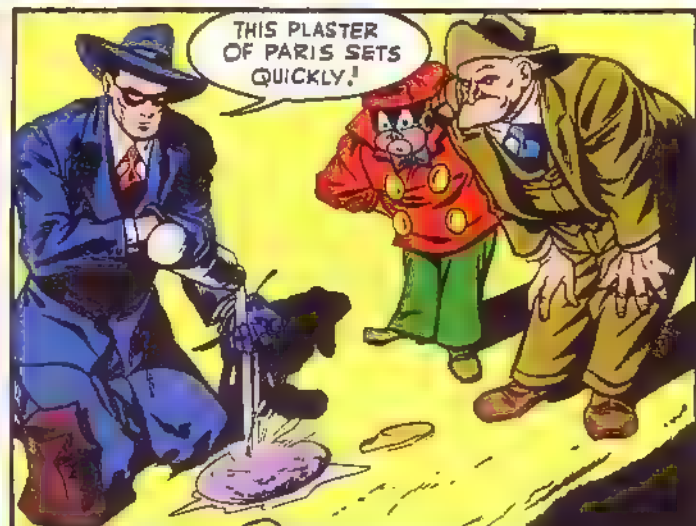
BAWWW!  
SNIFF!

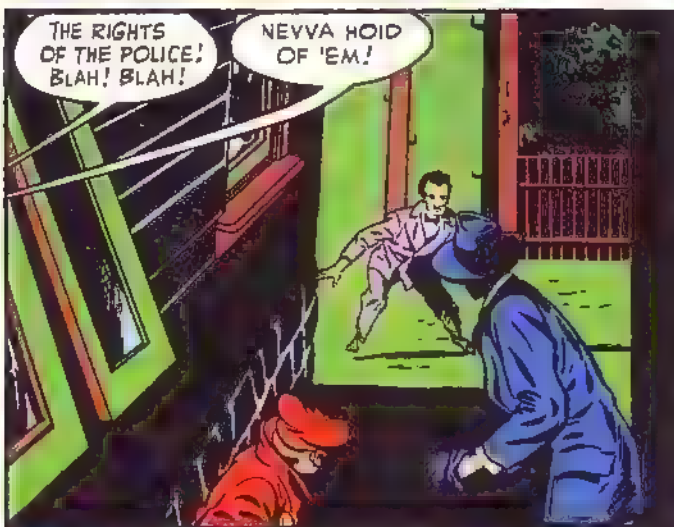


WOW!... SNIFF!  
BAW!...  
SNIFFLE!!

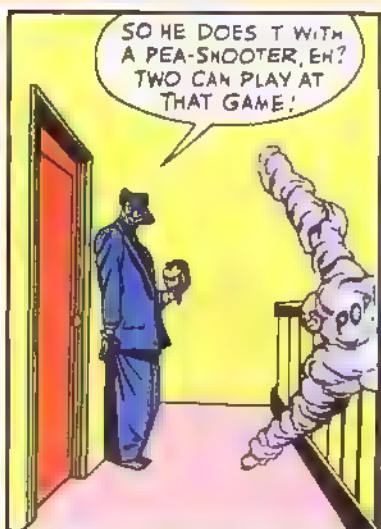
HE-HE-HE!











HERE, YOU  
HOLD HIM!

GLAD TO, IF  
YOU'LL TELL ME  
THE CHARGE  
AGAINST HIM!



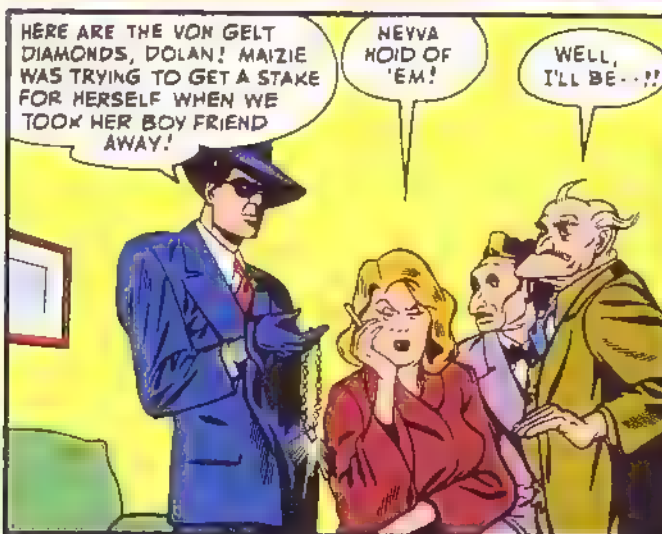
YOU CAN HOLD HIM  
FOR IMPERSONATING A  
SPECTRE FOR ONE  
THING! AND AT THE  
SAME TIME YOU CAN  
... OH, NO, YOU  
DON'T!!



HERE ARE THE VON GELT  
DIAMONDS, DOLAN! MAIZIE  
WAS TRYING TO GET A STAKE  
FOR HERSELF WHEN WE  
TOOK HER BOY FRIEND  
AWAY!

NEVVA  
HOID OF  
'EM!

WELL,  
I'LL BE-!!



YOU'D BETTER  
GET THAT OUTFIT  
HE WORE, AS A  
PIECE OF  
EVIDENCE!

I'LL HAVE A MAN  
PICK IT UP! BUT  
HOW YOU KNEW  
THIS-----



EASY, ONCE I HAD MY HANDS  
ON THAT PLASTER CAST! A BIG  
MAN WITH FEET THAT SMALL  
WOULD BE OFF-BALANCE, AND  
CERTAINLY NO GOOD  
AS A BURGLAR!



HE DEvised A GET-UP OF A COAT  
SO LARGE THAT IT CAME OVER HIS  
HEAD! PROPS ON HIS SHOULDERS  
HELD THE COAT UP SO IT LOOKED  
LIKE A NORMAL BODY INSIDE!  
HE COUNTED ON TERRIFYING HIS  
VICTIM TO HELP HIM ESCAPE IF HE  
WERE CAUGHT ROBBING  
A PLACE!

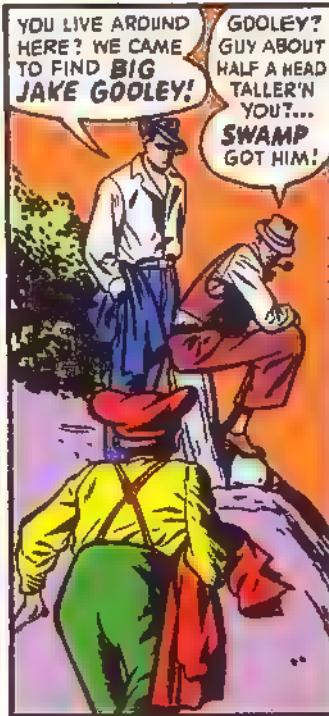
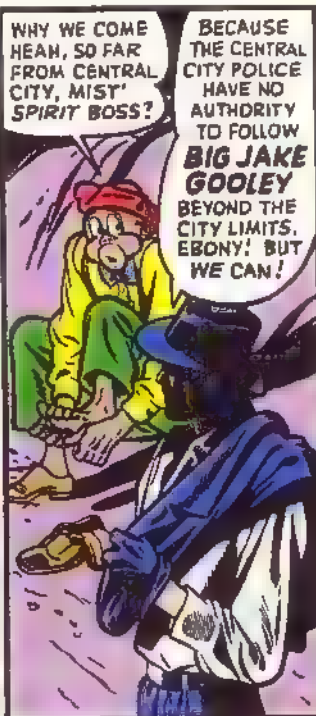


YOU SEE -- LIKE  
ALL OTHER CRIMINALS,  
HE HAD SHOES TOO  
SMALL FOR HIS  
AMBITIONS!

WELL,  
I'LL BE-!!





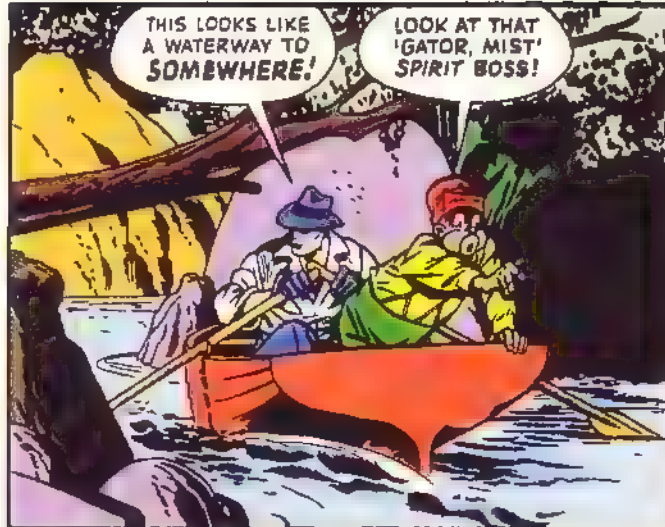


THIS LOOKS LIKE  
A WATERWAY TO  
SOMEWHERE!

LOOK AT THAT  
'GATOR, MIST'  
SPIRIT BOSS!

HE'S MAKIN' UP HIS  
MIN' WHETHER TO  
TAKE YOU FO'  
SIZE OR ME  
FO' FLAVOR!

I THOUGHT WE  
COULD IGNORE HIM  
-- BUT HE DOESN'T  
INTEND TO  
IGNORE US!



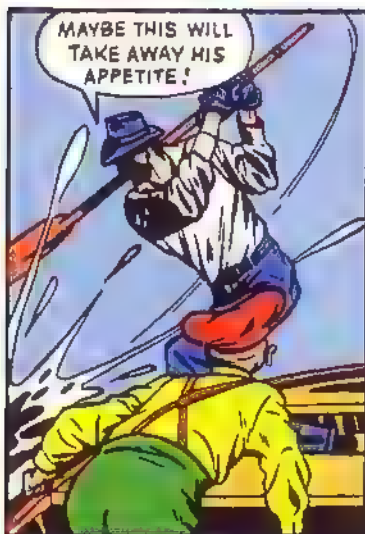
MAYBE THIS WILL  
TAKE AWAY HIS  
APPETITE!

HEAH COME  
HIS PALS! THEY  
MUSTA THOUGHT  
HE BLEW MESS  
CALL!

THERE WON'T  
BE ENOUGH  
OF US TO  
FEED THEM ALL  
-- SO LET'S  
GO!

YOU'D THINK  
THAT SWARM  
OF REPTILES  
NEVER HEARD  
OF MEAT  
RATIONING!

HEY!  
LOOK!  
... A  
HOUSE!

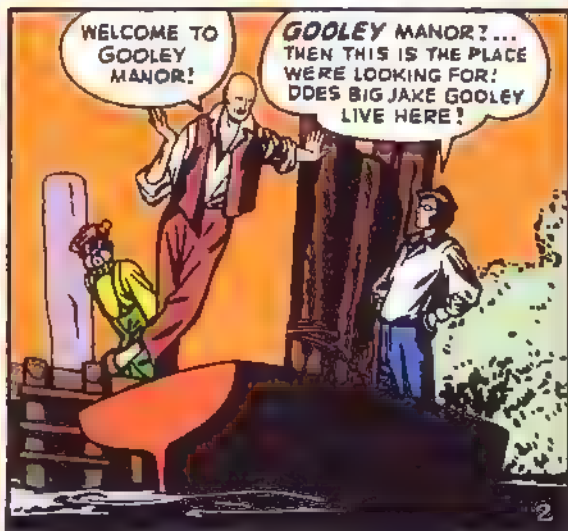


HERE'S  
A ROPE!  
CATCH!

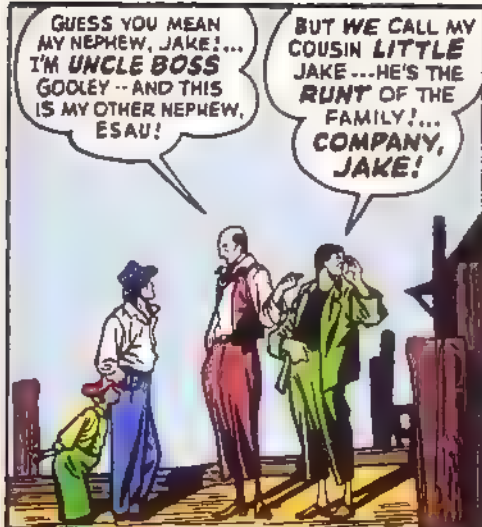
THANKS  
A MILLYUN,  
SUH!

WELCOME TO  
GOOLEY  
MANOR!

GOOLEY MANOR?...  
THEN THIS IS THE PLACE  
WE'RE LOOKING FOR!  
DOES BIG JAKE GOOLEY  
LIVE HERE?







GUESS YOU MEAN MY NEPHEW, JAKE!... I'M **UNCLE BOSS** GOOLEY --AND THIS IS MY OTHER NEPHEW, **ESAU!**

BUT WE CALL MY **COUSIN LITTLE JAKE**...HE'S THE **RUNT** OF THE FAMILY!... **COMPANY, JAKE!**



OH, SURE, I KNOW **HIM!** HI YA, **SPIRIT!** YOU ALMOST CAUGHT ME AFTER I **ROBBED** THE **CENTRAL CITY BANK**, DIDN'T YOU?



--ER-- **YES!**...YOUR **HOSPITALITY** IS SOMEWHAT **EMBARRASSING!** I CAME TO **ARREST JAKE** AND TAKE HIM BACK WITH ME!...



OH, GUESS YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND! **NOBODY** EVER LEAVES **GOOLEY MANOR!**



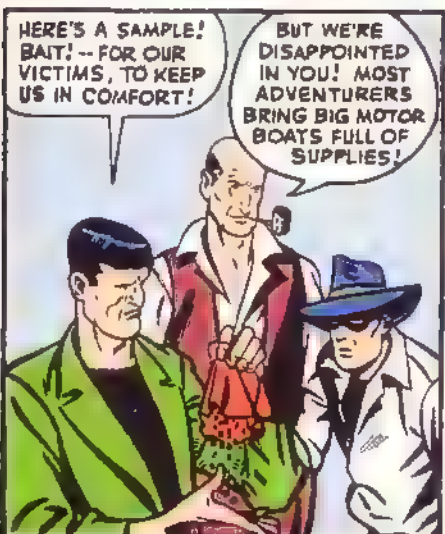
WE WAIT HERE FOR THE **FOOLS** WHO COME LOOKING FOR THE **SWAMP'S DIAMONDS** ... AND --ER-- **DISPOSE** OF THEM FOR THEIR **SUPPLIES!**



WHAT'S THIS ALL ABOUT ANYWAY?

**DIAMONDS?** ARE THERE REALLY **DIAMONDS** HERE?

TO BE **SURE!**



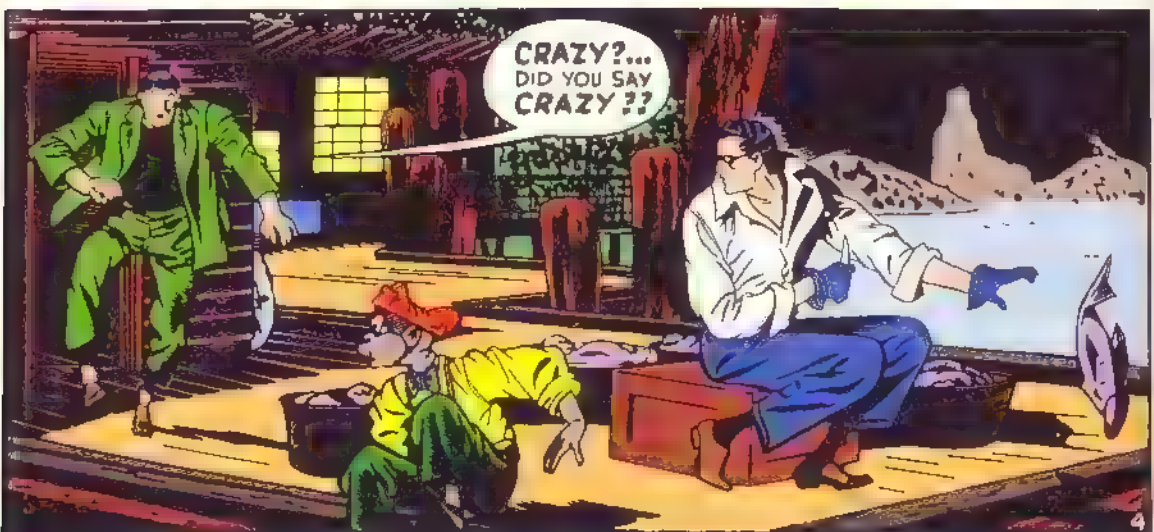
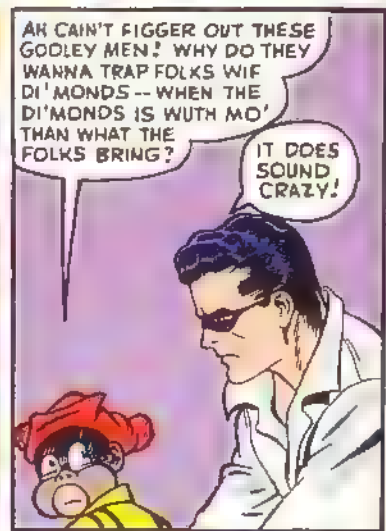
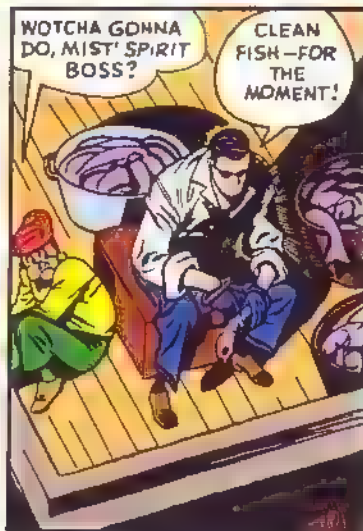
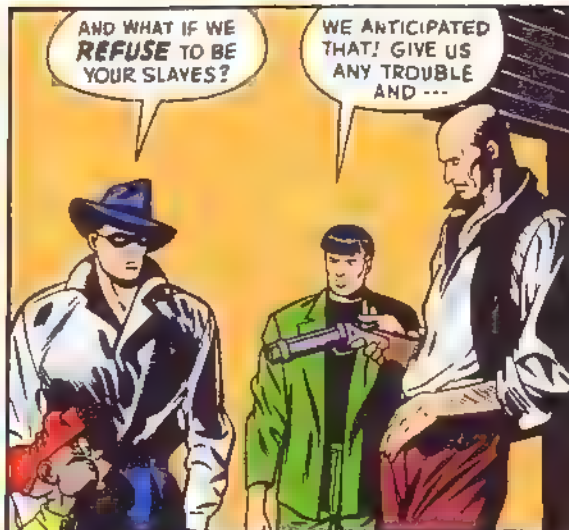
HERE'S A **SAMPLE!** **BAIT!** --FOR OUR **VICTIMS**, TO KEEP US IN **COMFORT!**

BUT WE'RE **DISAPPOINTED** IN YOU! MOST **ADVENTURERS** BRING **BIG MOTOR BOATS** FULL OF **SUPPLIES!**



LET'S KEEP THEM **AWHILE** AND MAKE THEM **WORK!**

IF I WAS YOU, **UNCLE BOSS**, I'D **KILL** THAT **SPIRIT** GUY BEFORE HE CAUGHT YOU OFF **GUARD** AND ---



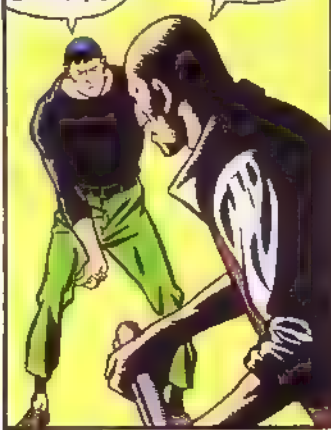


THAT WORD DRIVES US INTO A FURY! AND SINCE YOU THINK WE'RE **CRAZY**, I'M GOING TO--



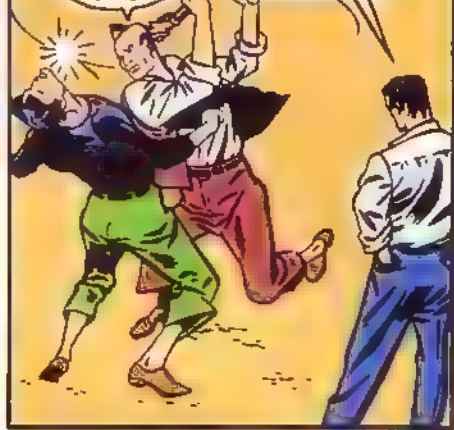
ESAU, YOU'VE BROKEN OUR **INFLEXIBLE RULE!**... YOU SAID THE **UNSPEAKABLE WORD!**

IT WAS THE SPIRIT WHO CALLED US **CRAZY!**



THERE! YOU SAID IT **AGAIN!**

LET THIS TEACH YOU NOT TO LIE!

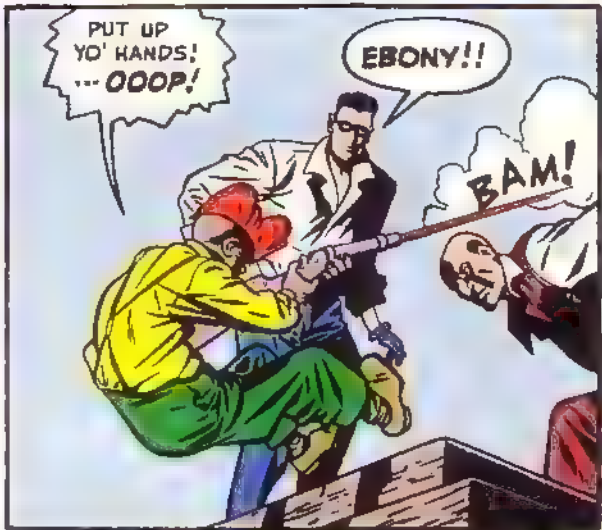


BUT IT'S PLAIN HE WAS TELLING THE TRUTH!



YOU **ARE** MENTALLY UNSOUND-- HERMITS, KILLERS AND WILD MEN!

THOSE'LL BE YOUR LAST WORDS!



PUT UP YO' HANDS! ... **OOOP!**

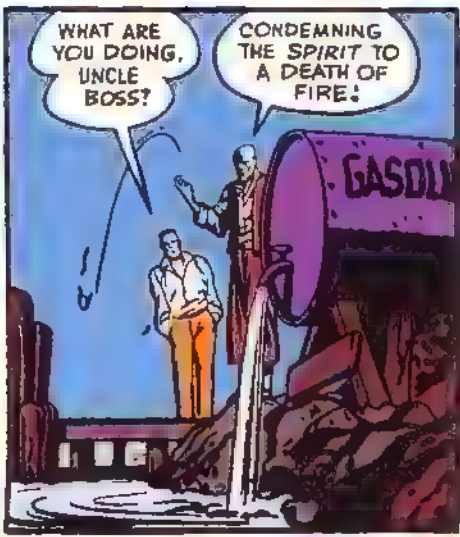
**EBONY!!**

**BAM!**



I'LL SAVE YOU!

NO, YOU WON'T! I'LL GET YOU BOTH!... **FINISH YOU!!**



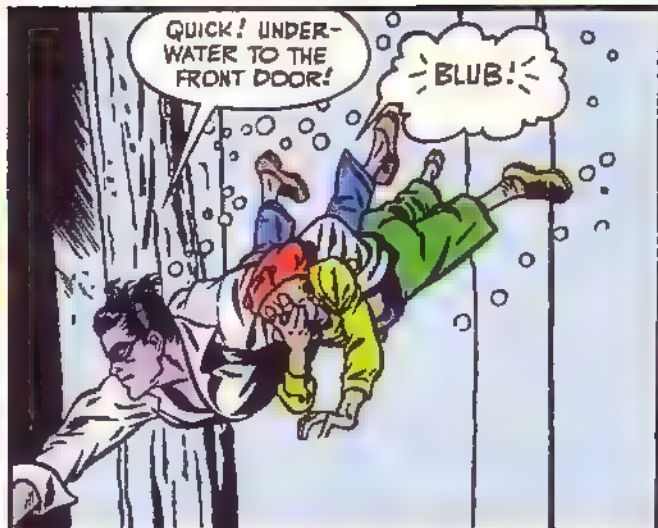
WHAT ARE YOU DOING, UNCLE BOSS?

CONDEMNING THE SPIRIT TO A DEATH OF FIRE!



MIST' SPIRIT BOSS, AH'S AFRAID IT'S THE END FO' US!

NO, EBONY! THIS SHOWS US OUR WAY OUT!



QUICK! UNDER-WATER TO THE FRONT DOOR!

BLUB!



THEY'LL BE BURNT TO CINDERS!

UNCLE BOSS, YOU LEFT THE GAS-RUNNING! --THE FIRE'S COMING UP TO US!

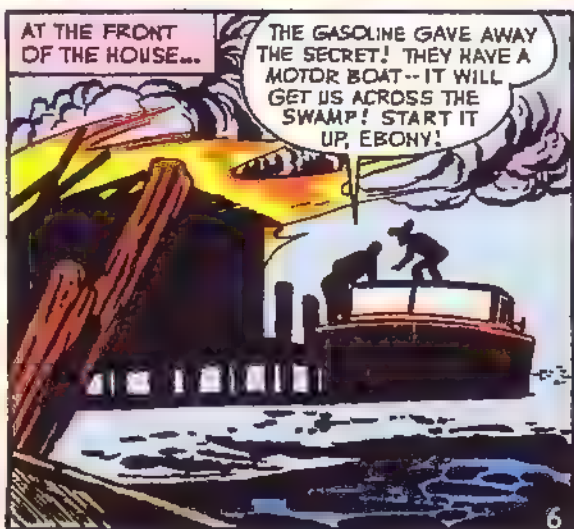


JAKE! KILLED!

A BLOW LIKE THAT I TAKE FROM NOBODY--NOT EVEN UNCLE BOSS!



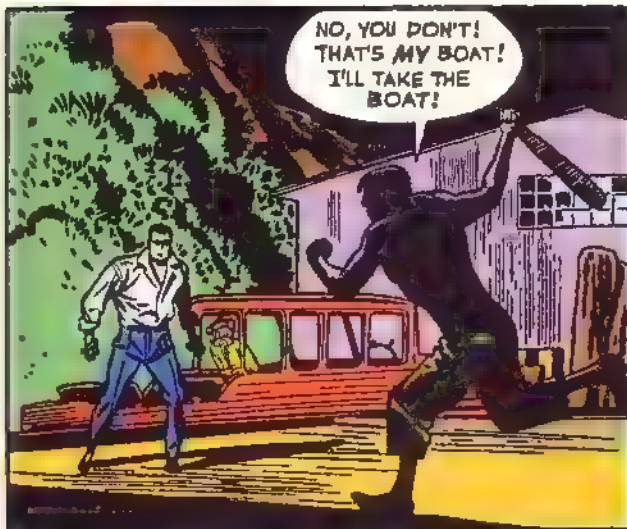
NO, ESAU! NO!



AT THE FRONT OF THE HOUSE...

THE GASOLINE GAVE AWAY THE SECRET! THEY HAVE A MOTOR BOAT--IT WILL GET US ACROSS THE SWAMP! START IT UP, EBONY!





NO, YOU DON'T!  
THAT'S MY BOAT!  
I'LL TAKE THE  
BOAT!



I KILLED  
UNCLE BOSS!  
I'LL KILL---

THIS IS HOW  
JOE LOUIS  
BROUGHT CARNERA  
DOWN INTO  
RANGE!

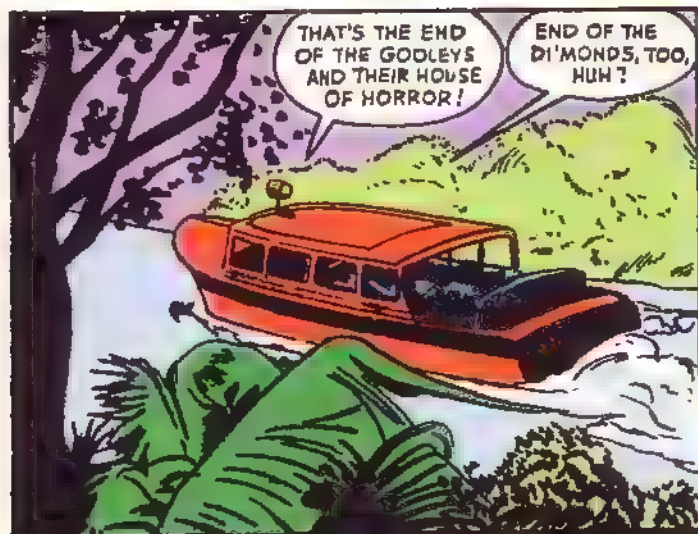


AND HERE'S  
HOW DEMPSEY  
CUT DOWN  
FIRPO!



HELP!...  
OOOOHHHHH!

MIST' SPIRIT BOSS!  
LET'S GIT GOIN'  
FROM HYAH--  
FAST!!



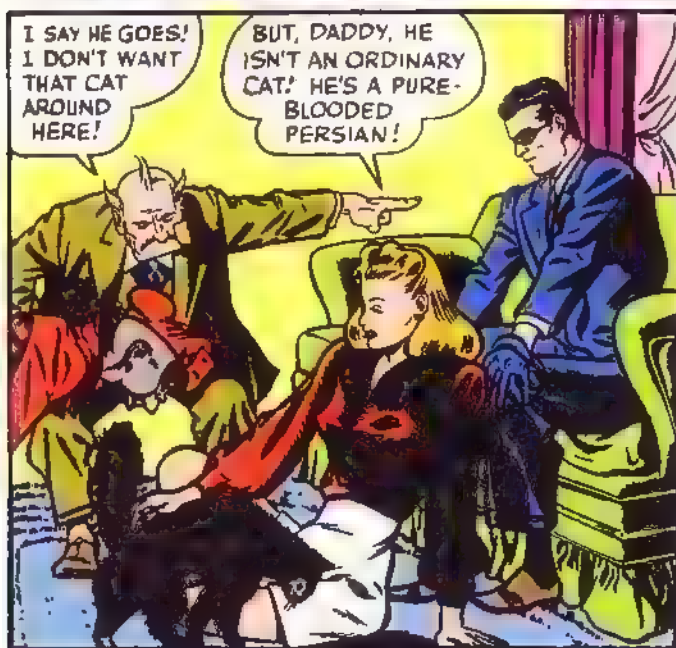
THAT'S THE END  
OF THE GODLEYS  
AND THEIR HOUSE  
OF HORROR!

END OF THE  
DI'MONDS, TOO,  
HUH?

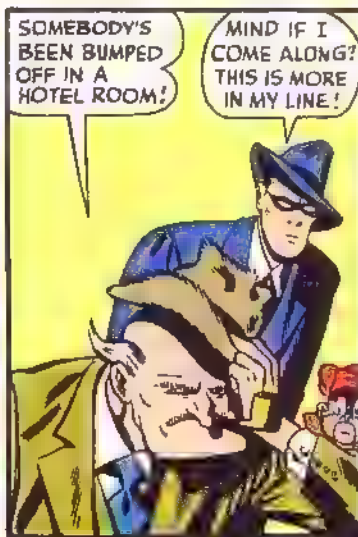
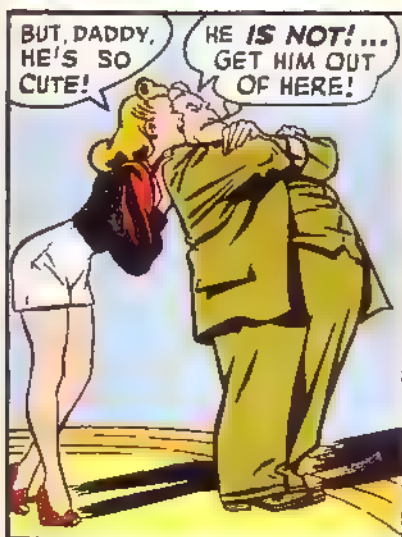
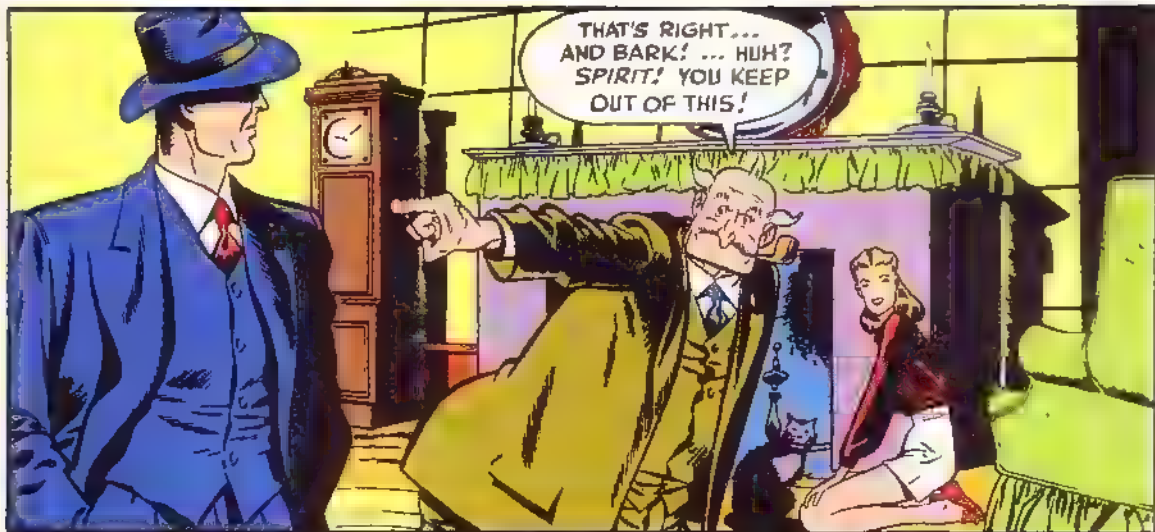


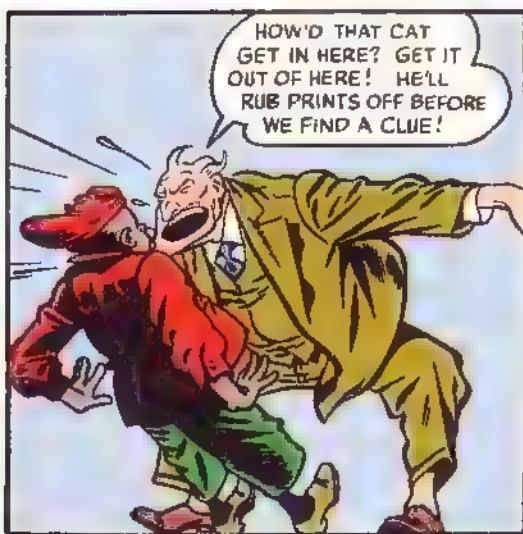
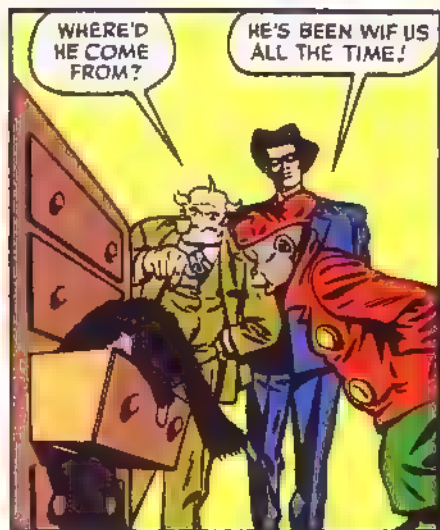
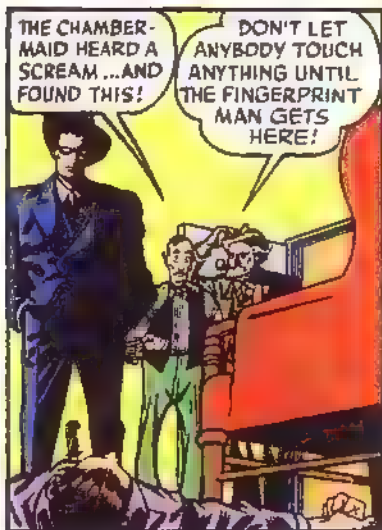
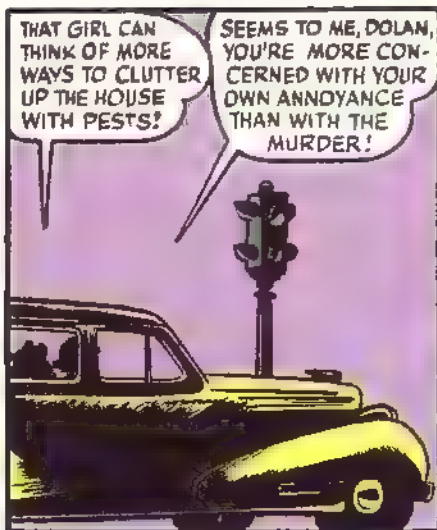
IT'S JUST AS WELL!  
THEY SERVED AS BAIT  
FOR MURDER! IN THE  
OUTER WORLD THEY  
MIGHT HAVE CAUSED  
EVEN MORE  
TRAGEDY!

October 8, 1944

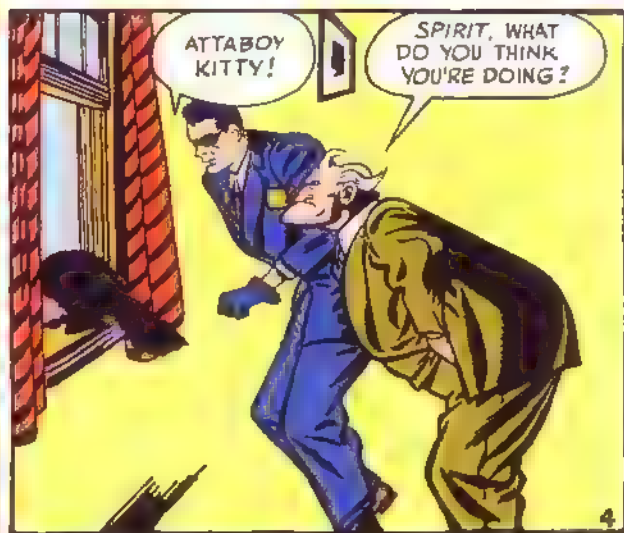
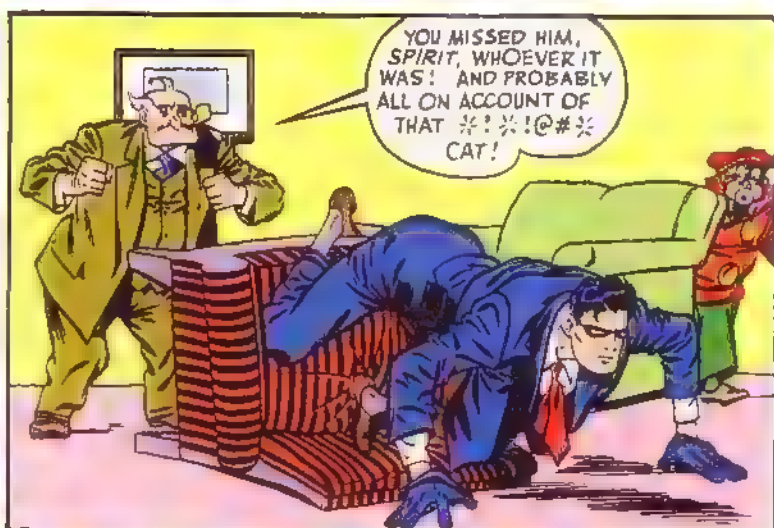
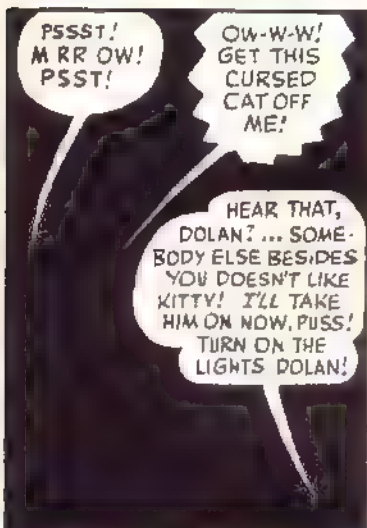


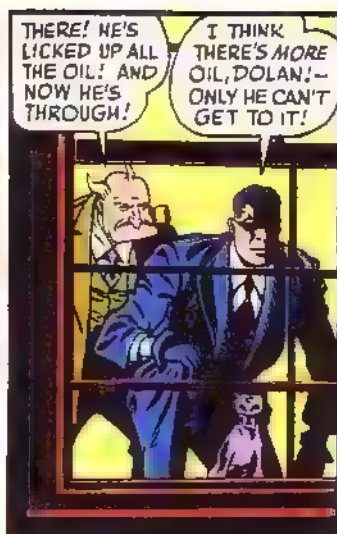




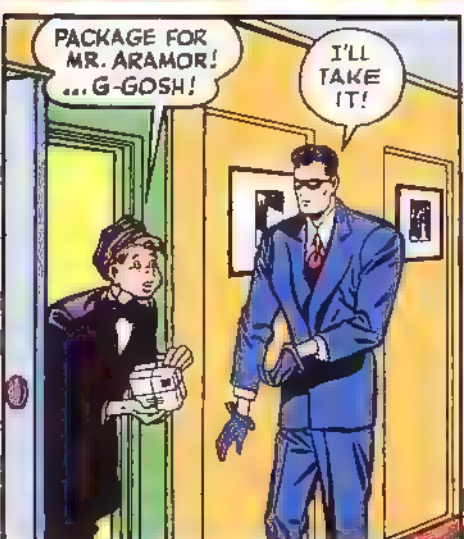
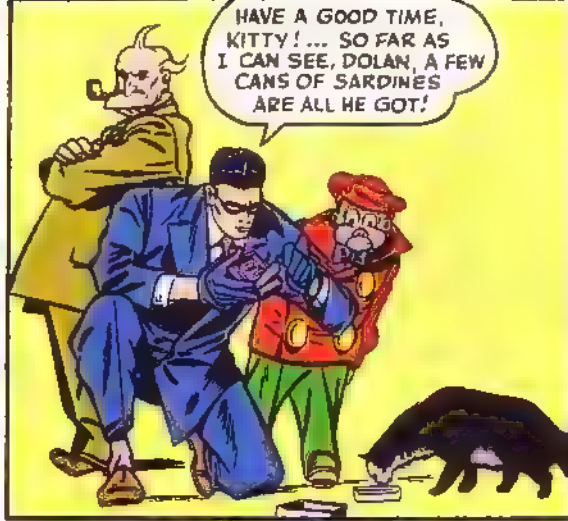














CAT YO' AM SHO'  
TO BUST EF THIS  
KEEPS UP ANY  
LONGER!



A DIAMOND!  
WHEN! LOOK  
AT THE SIZE  
OF IT!

THAT'S IT! I KNEW  
IT! I KNEW IT WAS  
IN A SARDINE  
CAN!



WITH THE  
COMMISSIONER'S  
PERMISSION!



THANKS VERY  
MUCH! THAT'S  
ALL I WANTED  
TO KNOW!

AH'S WARNIN'  
YO, YO'D  
BETTER  
QUIT!

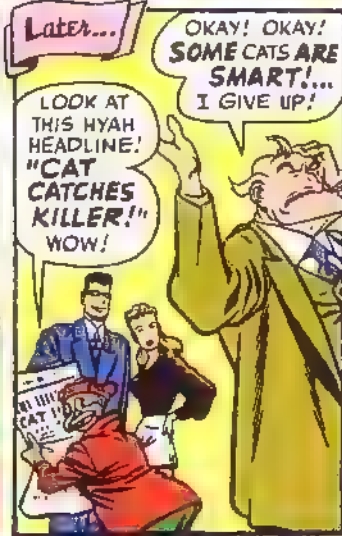


I GOT THE DOPE FROM THE  
AIRLINES DOLAN! THIS ARAMOR  
GUY ARRIVED ON ONE PLANE  
BUT SHIPPED THE SECOND  
BATCH OF SARDINES ON  
THE NEXT PLANE!



HE WAS A SMUGGLER WHO  
FIRST WANTED TO CONVINCE  
ANY HIJACKERS THAT HE  
D.D.N T HAVE THE DIAMOND...  
AND THEN RECEI'VE IT AFTER  
THEY HAD GIVEN UP TRYING  
TO STEAL IT! GUESS HE  
DIDN'T COUNT ON "ROUGH  
STUFF" HERE KNIFING HIM!  
...WHAT ABOUT  
IT?

IF IT  
HADN'T BEEN  
FOR THAT  
CAT---



Later...

OKAY! OKAY!  
SOME CATS ARE  
SMART!...  
I GIVE UP!

LOOK AT  
THIS HYAH  
HEADLINE!  
"CAT  
CATCHES  
KILLER!"  
WOW!



GUESS  
THEY'VE ALL BEEN  
READIN' ABOUT  
KITTY'S  
EXPLOITS!

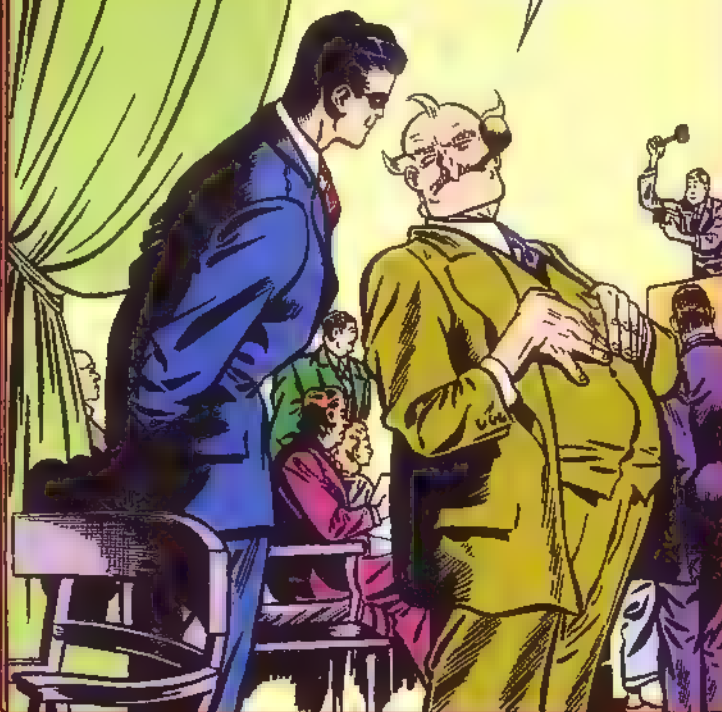
NOW  
LOOK HERE,  
ELLEN...  
\*\*\*

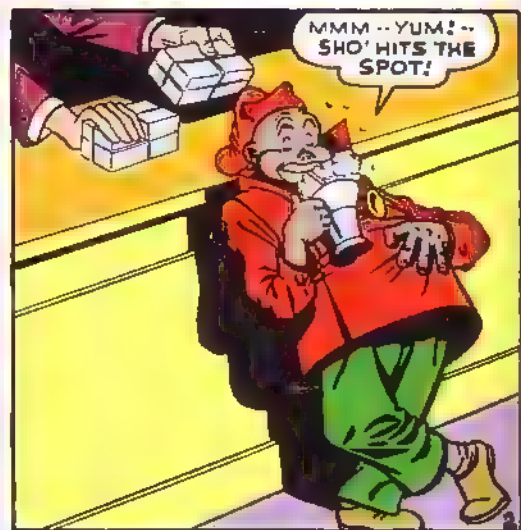
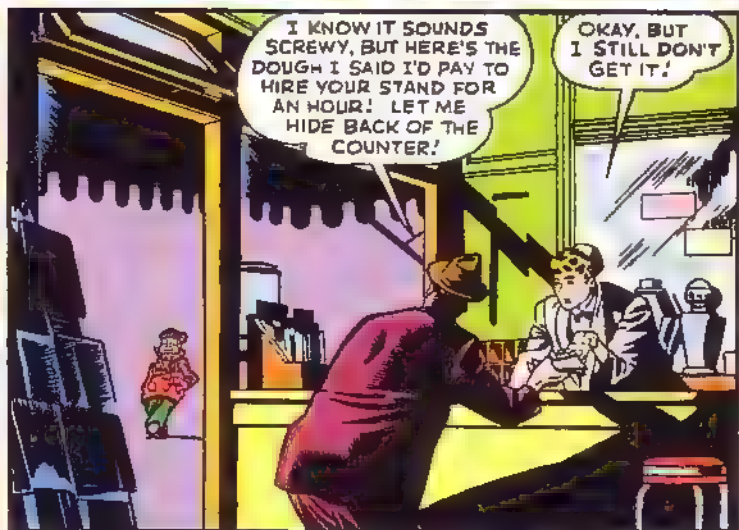
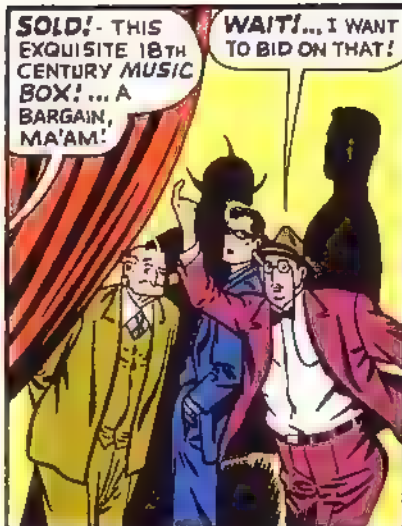


THE  
SPIRIT

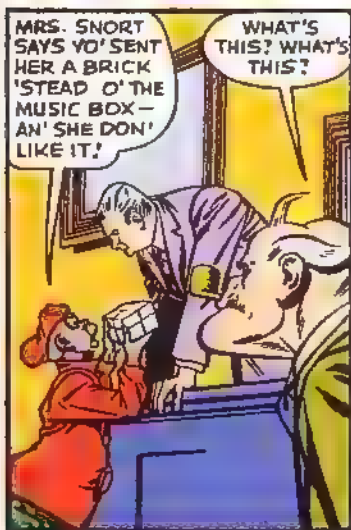
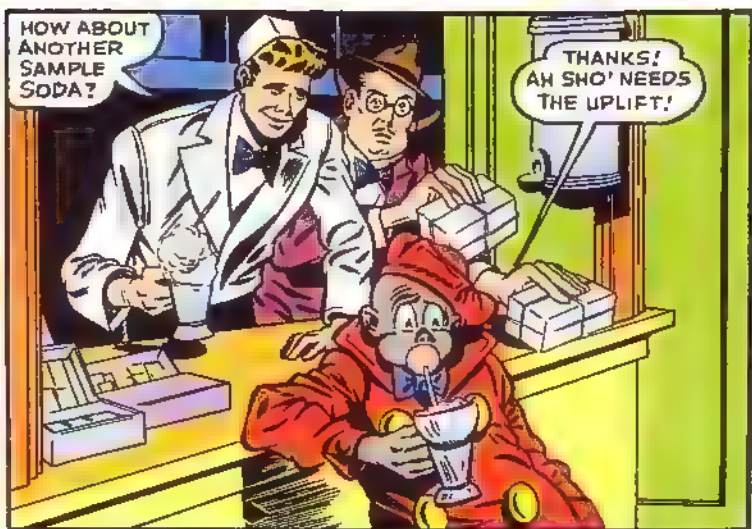
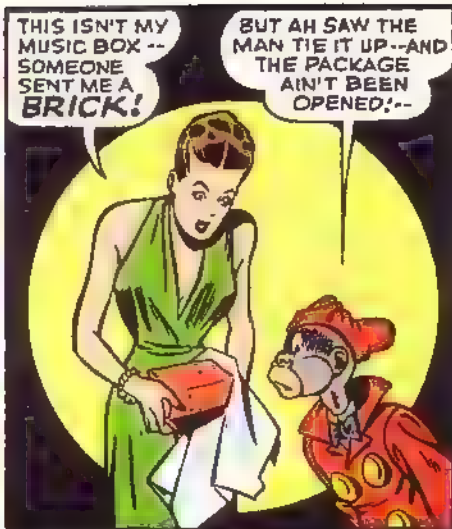
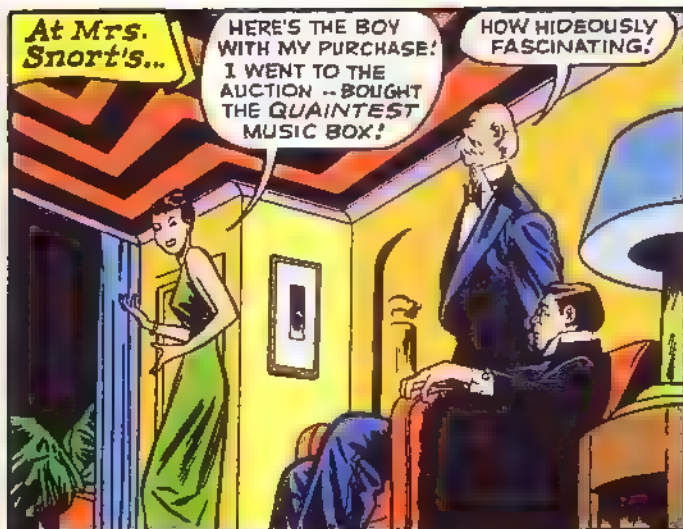
WELL, DOLAN! OUR  
POLICE COMMISSIONER  
TURNS *CONNOISSEUR*!  
ATTENDING AN AUCTION  
OF *ANTIQUES*!

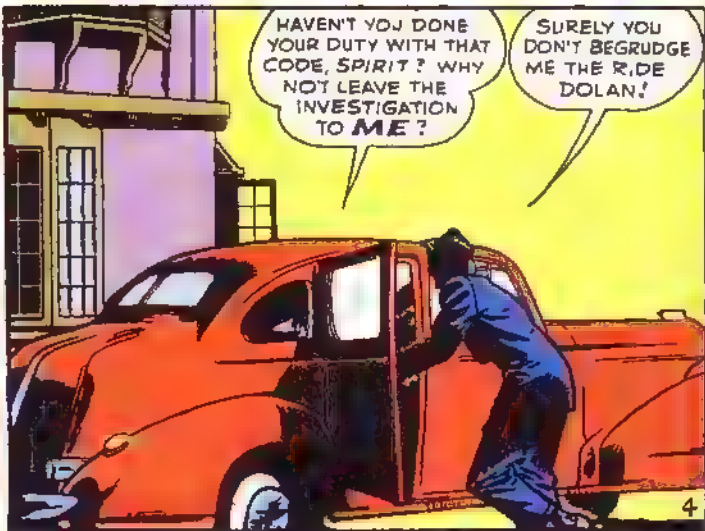
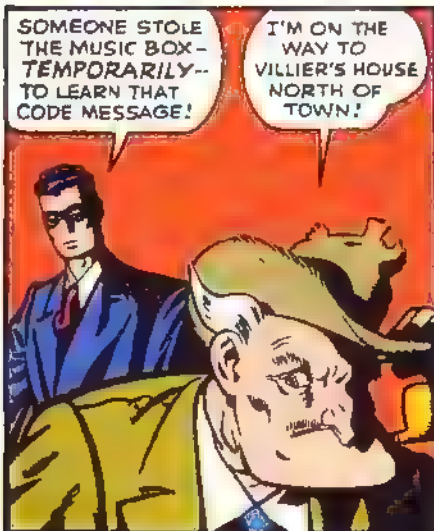
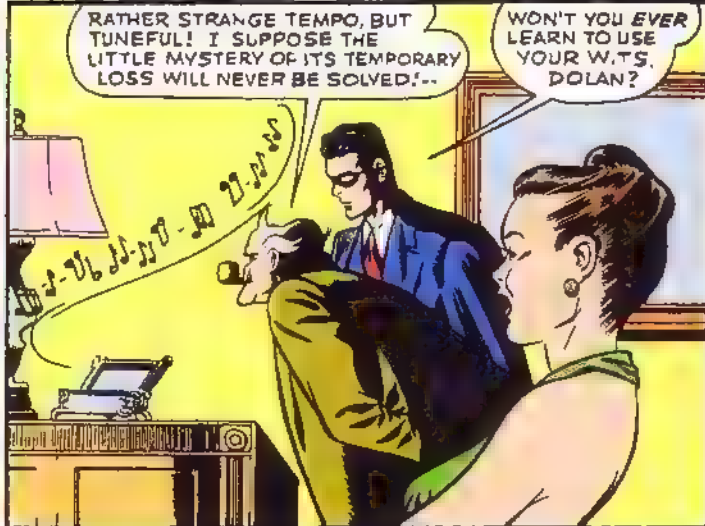
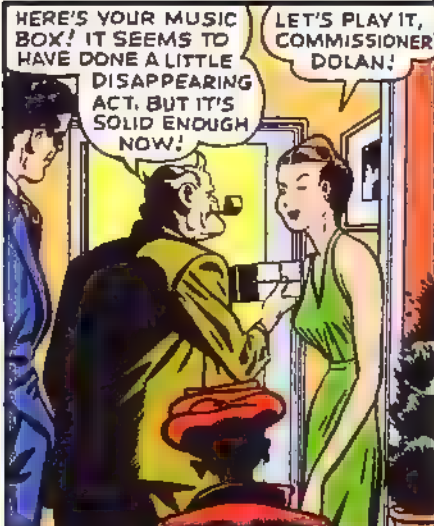
IF YOU WERE ON THE  
BEAM, *SPIRIT*, YOU'D KNOW  
WHY I'M HERE! THESE THINGS  
WERE PART OF THE FORTUNE OF  
*STEYNE VILLIER*, THE  
SOCIETY RACKETEER! ...  
I'M WATCHING TO SEE  
IF ANY OF HIS PALS  
TURN UP!


















I'M GOING INTO  
THE VILLIER HOUSE!  
KEEP AN EYE ON THE  
SPIRIT! DON'T LET  
HIM FOLLOW  
ME!

THE SPIRIT'S  
GONE,  
COMMISSIONER!




THIS IS MY CASE!  
I FORBID HIM  
TO INTERFERE!

WHILE, IN THE SECOND-  
FLOOR STUDY...



THERE, THE BOOKS ARE  
OUT OF THE SHELF! ~  
WE'LL PULL IT LOOSE  
FROM THE WALL,  
AND ---

WAIT!  
SOMEBODY'S  
COMING  
UPSTAIRS!



WHY, IT'S COMMISSIONER  
DOLAN! COME IN--  
BECAUSE YOU'RE  
NEVER GOING  
OUT AGAIN!


NOT  
IN ONE  
PIECE.  
ANYWAY!

YOU WOULDN'T DARE  
MOLEST ME - THE  
POLICE COMMISSIONER!  
THIS TOWN WOULDN'T  
HOLD YOU!

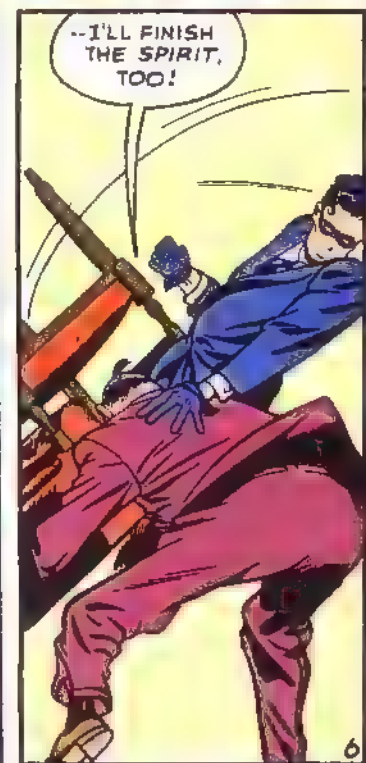
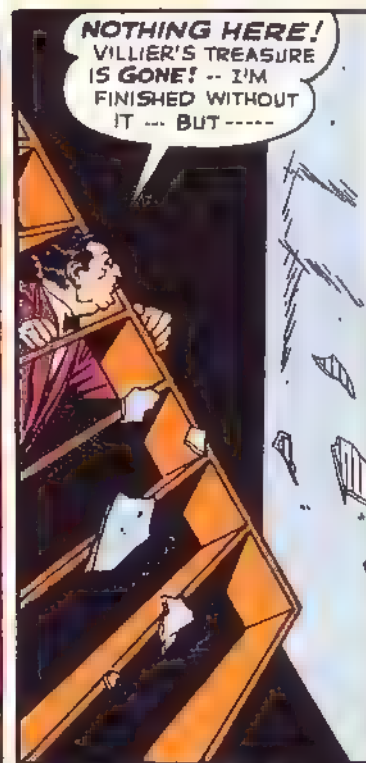
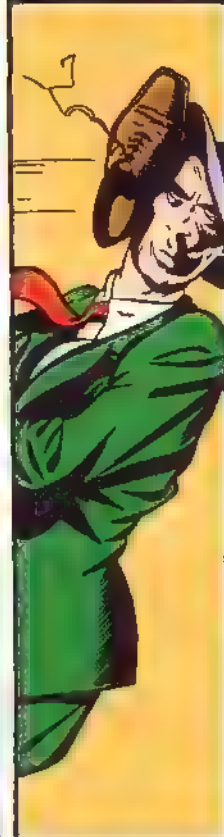
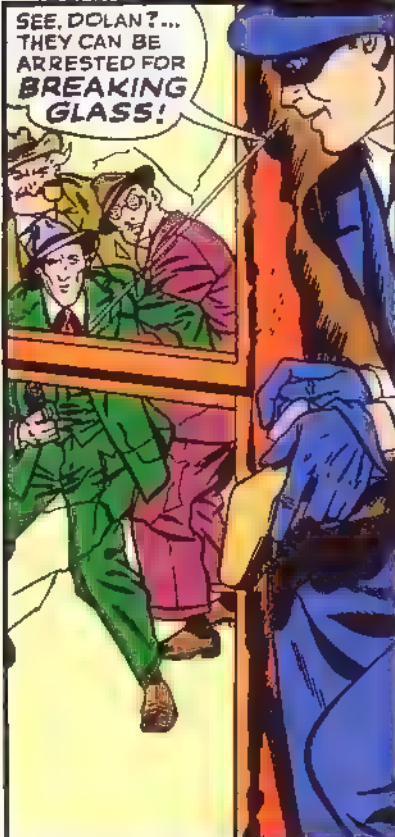
WE'LL HAVE  
PLENTY OF DOUGH  
TO LEAVE TOWN  
WITH! WE KNOW  
WHERE STEYNE  
VILLIER HID  
HIS HEAVIEST  
LOOT!

SOMEWHERE  
IN OR BEHIND  
THAT STUDY  
SHELF---

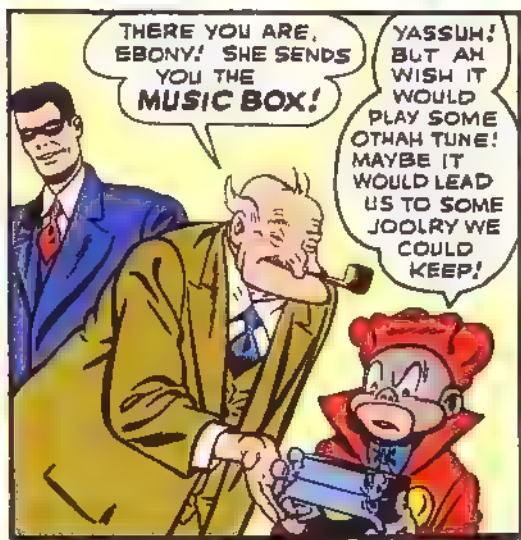
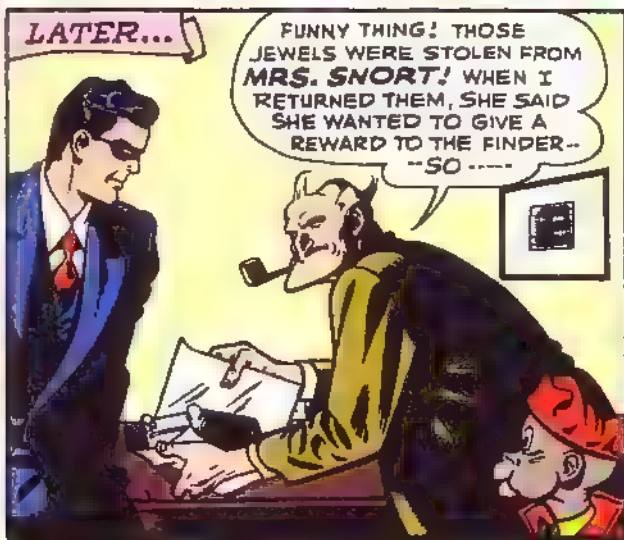
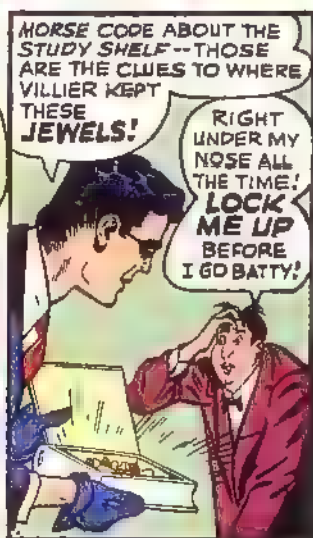
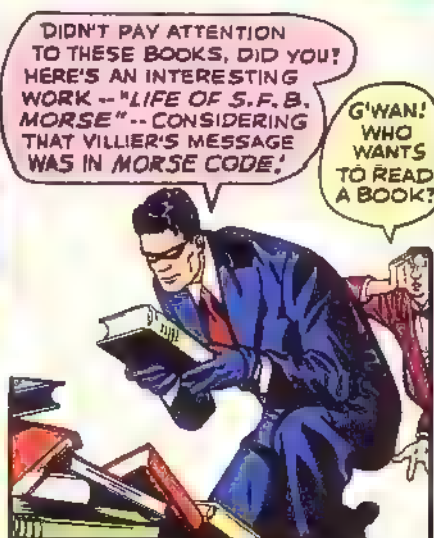
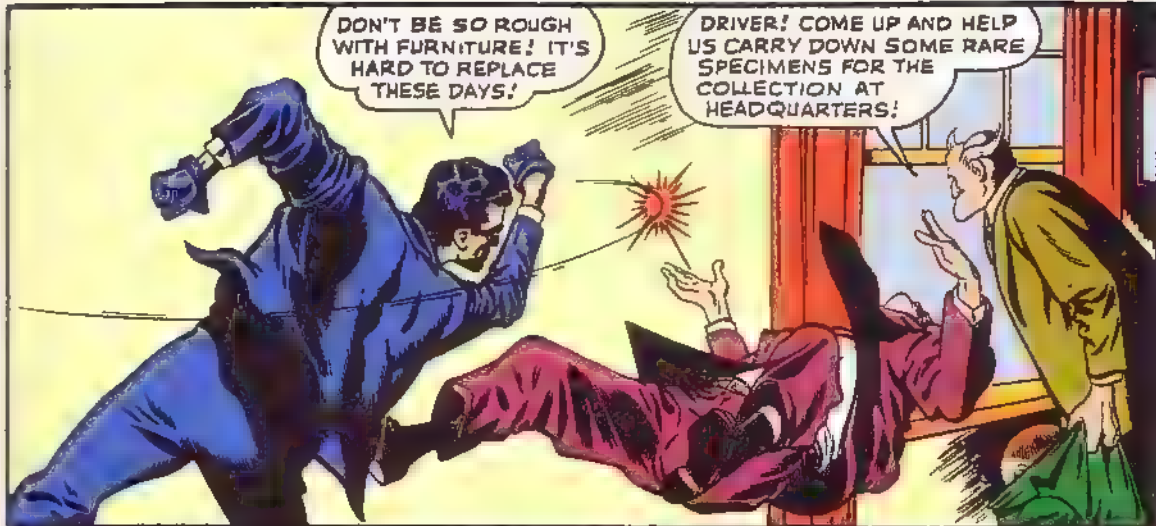
THAT'S WHAT  
I WANTED  
TO BE SURE  
OF!



YOU STOLE THE MUSIC  
BOX LONG ENOUGH  
TO READ THE CODE AS  
WE DID! BUT YOU KNEW  
WHAT VILLIER MEANT!  
NOW WE TAKE  
OVER!







COMIC  
BOOK  
SECTION

KINGOLOLIO

October 22, 1944

ACTION  
Mystery  
ADVENTURE

# The SPIRIT



by Will Eisner





NOTHING LIKE  
AN EVENING STROLL  
FOR THE CONSTITUTION  
EH, EBONY?

YES, MIST  
SPIRIT BOSS!  
AH READS  
WHERE PEOPLE  
SHOULD  
UPHOLD THE  
CONSTITUTION!



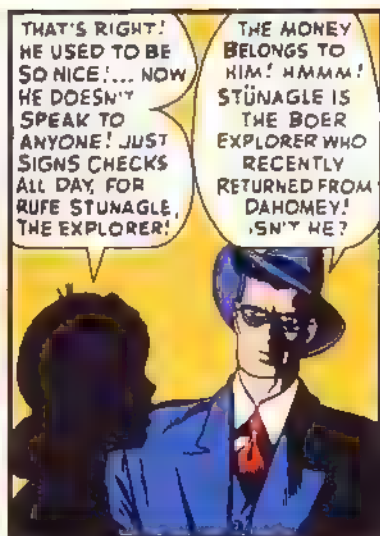
IT'S YOU!  
JUST WHEN  
I NEED  
HELP!

ARE YOU IN  
TROUBLE?



NO! THAT IS  
I'M NOT!  
T'S...IT'S  
MY UNCLE,  
LATIMER  
LONG! HE--

HMM! LATIMER  
LONG! YOU MEAN  
**THE** LATIMER  
LONG, FINANCIER?  
THE ONE WHO  
FINANCES  
EXPEDITIONS FOR  
THE CENTRAL MUSEUM  
OF NATURAL  
HISTORY?



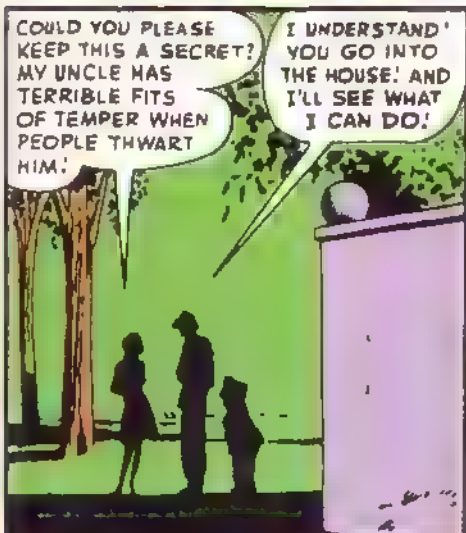
THAT'S RIGHT!  
HE USED TO BE  
SO NICE!... NOW  
HE DOESN'T  
SPEAK TO  
ANYONE! JUST  
SIGNS CHECKS  
ALL DAY, FOR  
RUFÉ STUNAGLE,  
THE EXPLORER!

THE MONEY  
BELONGS TO  
HIM! HMMMM!  
STUNAGLE IS  
THE BOER  
EXPLORER WHO  
RECENTLY  
RETURNED FROM  
DAHOMÉY!  
ISN'T HE?



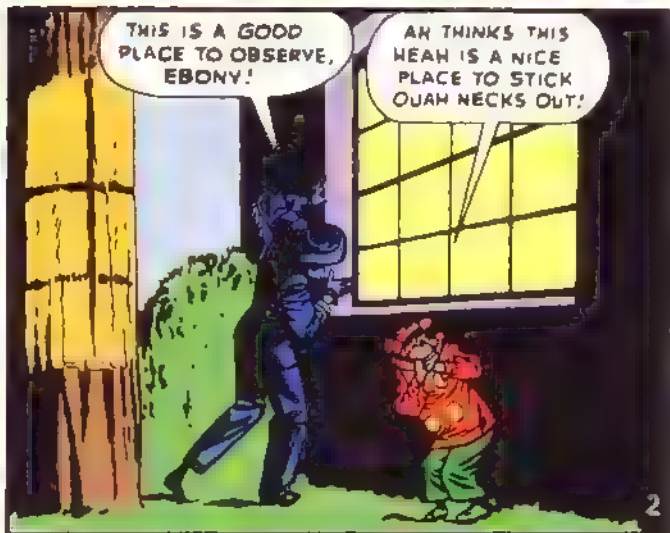
THIS MIGHT  
BEAR LOOKING  
INTO! YOU  
ARE ... ???

MYRA  
LONG!



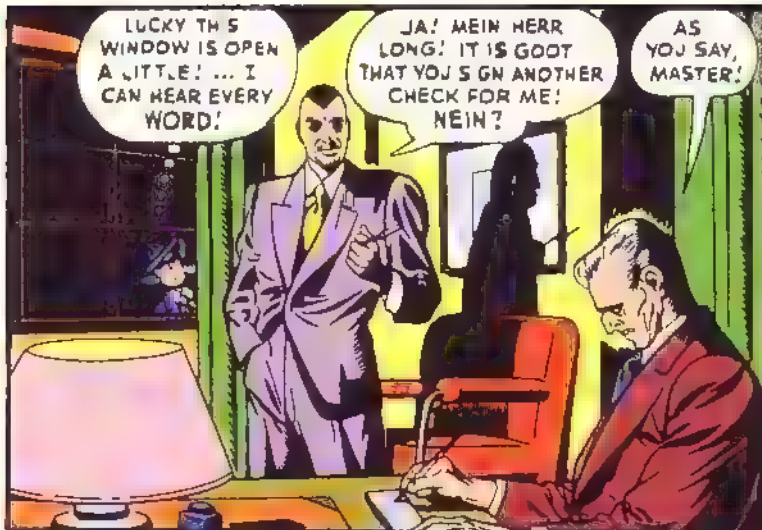
COULD YOU PLEASE  
KEEP THIS A SECRET?  
MY UNCLE HAS  
TERRIBLE FITS  
OF TEMPER WHEN  
PEOPLE THWART  
HIM!

I UNDERSTAND!  
YOU GO INTO  
THE HOUSE! AND  
I'LL SEE WHAT  
I CAN DO!

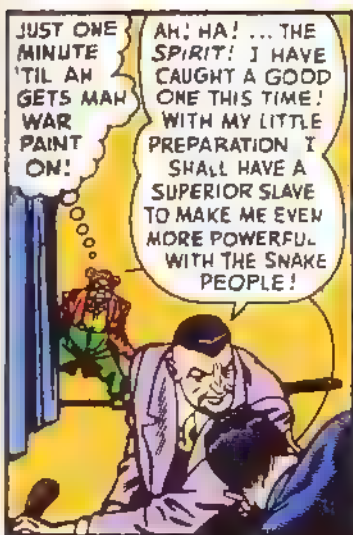


THIS IS A GOOD  
PLACE TO OBSERVE,  
EBONY!

AH THINKS THIS  
NEAH IS A NICE  
PLACE TO STICK  
OUAH NECKS OUT!







WITH THE CONTENTS OF THIS GOURD I'LL MAKE A SLAVE OF HIS SUPER BRAIN! I SHALL BE INVINCIBLE AND THE TRIBE WILL THEN SHOW ME WHERE TO GET THOSE DIAMONDS THAT THEY BRING TO THE TRADING CENTER!



WHERE AM I?

MIST' SPIRIT BOSS, IT AIN'T WHERE YO' ARE THAT HAS ME WORRIED! IT'S WHERE YO' MIGHT BE WHEN THAT MAN GETS DONE!



NOW A LITTLE OF THIS ON HIS TONGUE AND HE WILL BE FIXED! ONE SMALL DOSE AND...



YOUGH!  
©#%©\*\*  
\*\*\*!!!

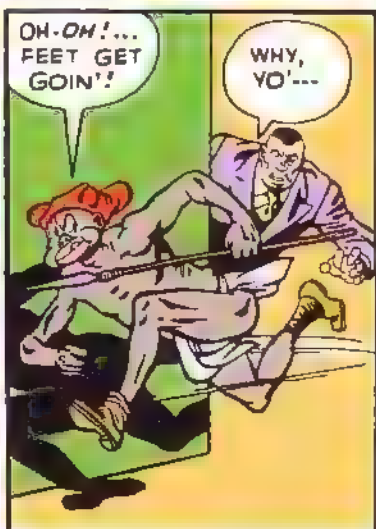


HA! HA! SO THE LIDDLE HELPER IS ALONG! ... GOODT! I SHALL FIX YOU, TOO!



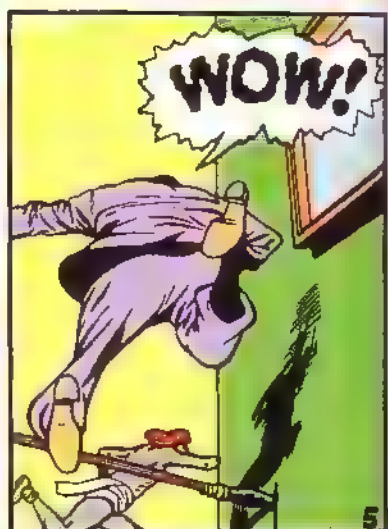
AH THINK YO' DONE ENOUGH FIXIN' ROUN' THESE HEAH PARTS!

Y-I-I-I-PES!



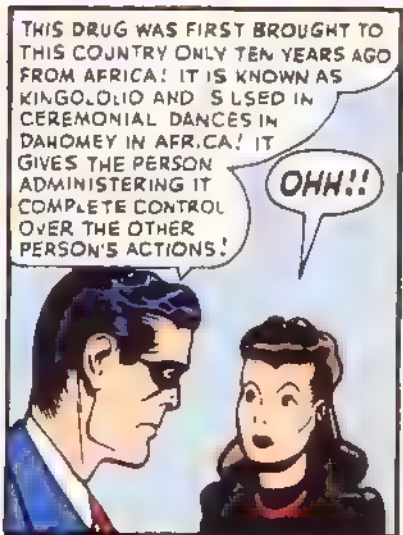
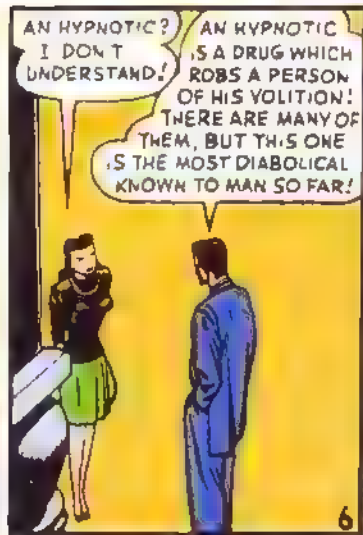
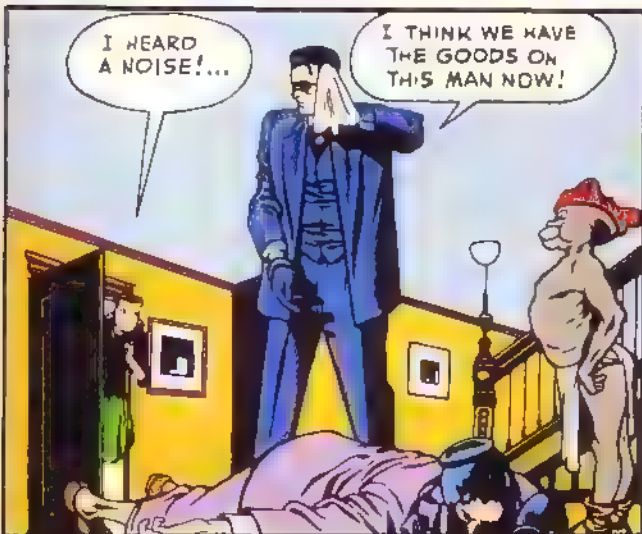
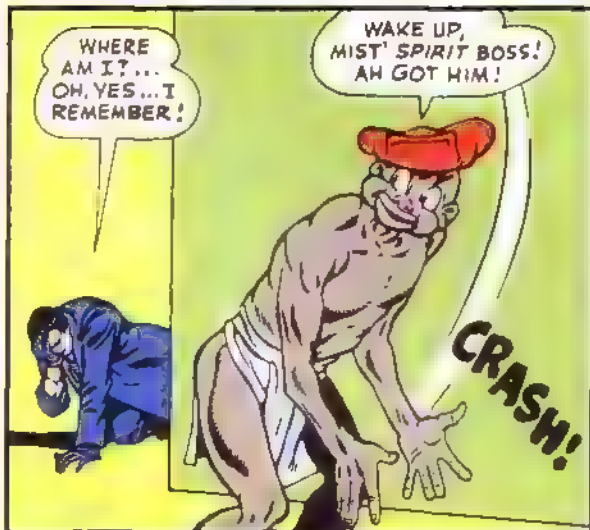
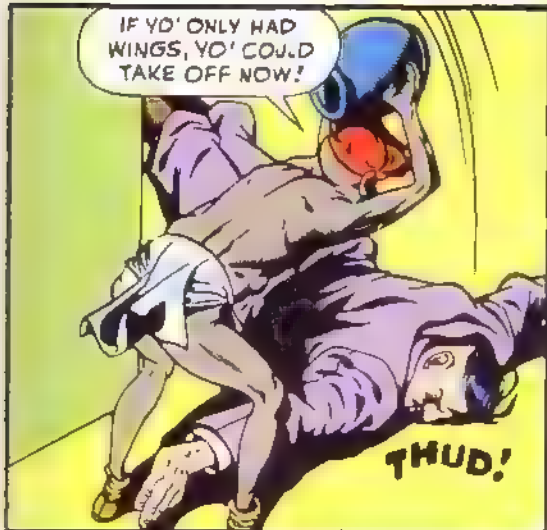
OH-OH!... FEET GET GOIN'!

WHY, YO'...



WOW!









COMIC  
BOOK  
SECTION

THE SECRET OF THE GOLD  
HILLS

October 29, 1944

ACTION  
Mystery  
ADVENTURE

THE **SPIRIT**

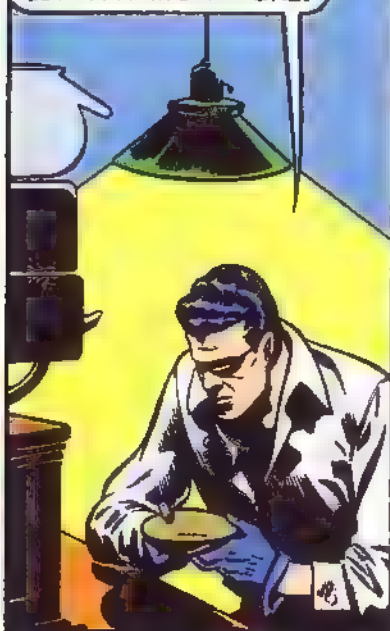
FROM his hideout in Wildwood Cemetery, sought by the police and feared by the underworld, the **SPIRIT** rises to unravel *The Secret of the Gold Hills....*

by  
Will Eisner



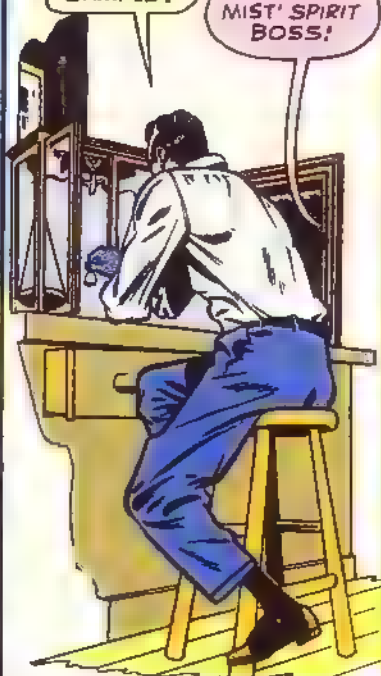
IN THE LABORATORY OF **THE SPIRIT** IN WILDWOOD CEMETERY...

AS I THOUGHT! **FULL OF GOLD!** SOMEBODY'S LOW-GRADING THE ORE!

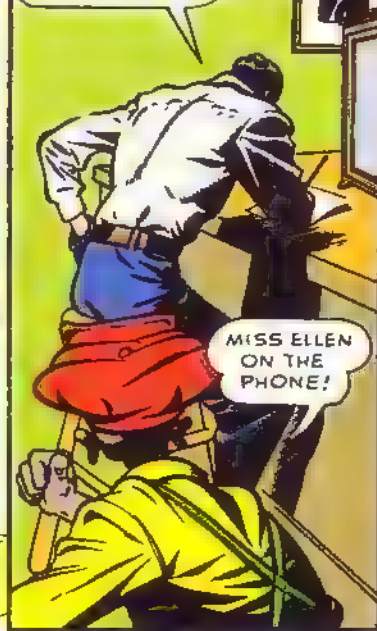


EBONY, WILL YOU GET ELLEN ON THE PHONE WHILE I WEIGH THIS SAMPLE?

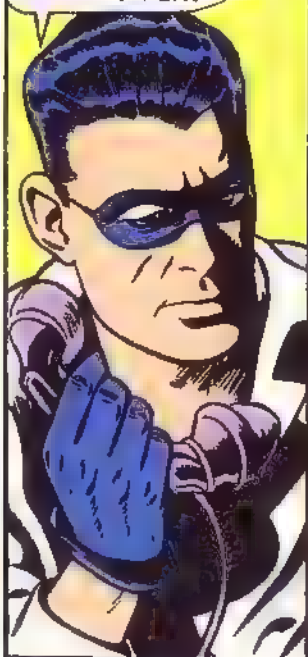
YASSUH, MIST' SPIRIT BOSS!



HMMM! THE MINE REPORTS FOUR DOLLARS IN GOLD TO A TON OF ORE! THIS ASSAY SHOWS SEVENTY-SIX DOLLARS A TON! I THINK I'LL TAKE A LITTLE TRIP TO THE MINE!



ELLEN, TELL MONA GALE NOT TO GO NEAR HER MINE TONIGHT! ... I THINK I'M ON THE RIGHT TRACK! I'LL REPORT LATER!



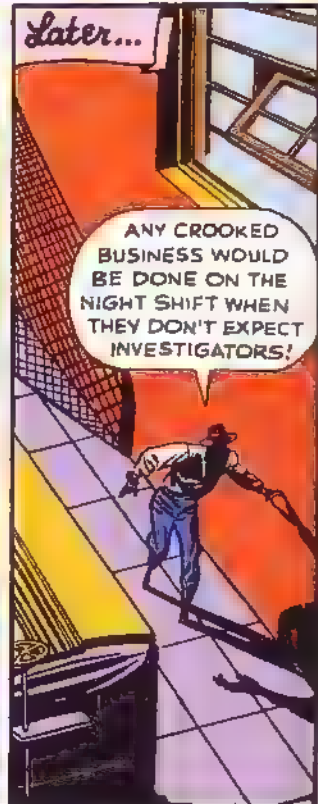
I TOLD YOU THE SPIRIT WOULD FIND SOMETHING IF YOU SNEAKED A SAMPLE FROM THE MINE!

I CAN'T UNDERSTAND YOU, MONA!...TRUSTING AN OUTLAW LIKE THE SPIRIT! ... BESIDES, EVERY GOLD MINE EVENTUALLY RUNS OUT! -- NOW, IF YOU'D LIKE TO DISPOSE OF THE MINE ---



*Later...*

ANY CROOKED BUSINESS WOULD BE DONE ON THE NIGHT SHIFT WHEN THEY DON'T EXPECT INVESTIGATORS!





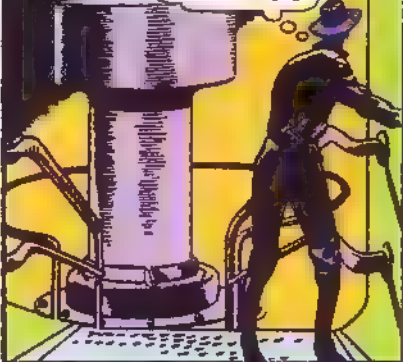
THE THEFTS MUST TAKE PLACE IN THE PROCESS VATS! SODIUM CYANIDE DISSOLVES THE GOLD! ... BUT HOW THEY CAN SEPARATE THE TWO WITHOUT EQUIPMENT IS BEYOND ME!



LUCKY THING I KNEW SOMETHING ABOUT THIS PROCESS! THIS RESPIRATOR WILL COMPLETE MY DISGUISE!

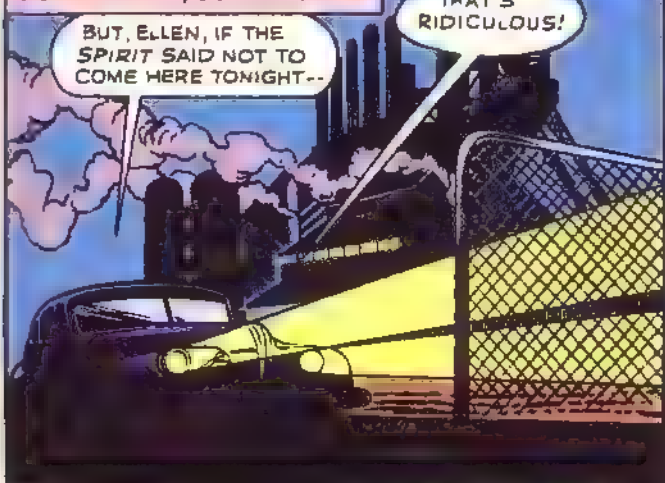


THIS PIPE DOWN THROUGH THE FLOOR GIVES ME AN IDEA OF WHAT MAY BE HAPPENING! BUT WHERE DOES IT LEAD?



*Meanwhile, outside!...*

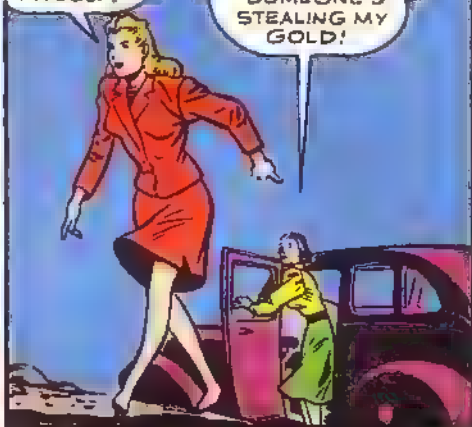
BUT, ELLEN, IF THE SPIRIT SAID NOT TO COME HERE TONIGHT--



THAT'S RIDICULOUS!

BESIDES, I'M A VERY GOOD DETECTIVE, MYSELF!

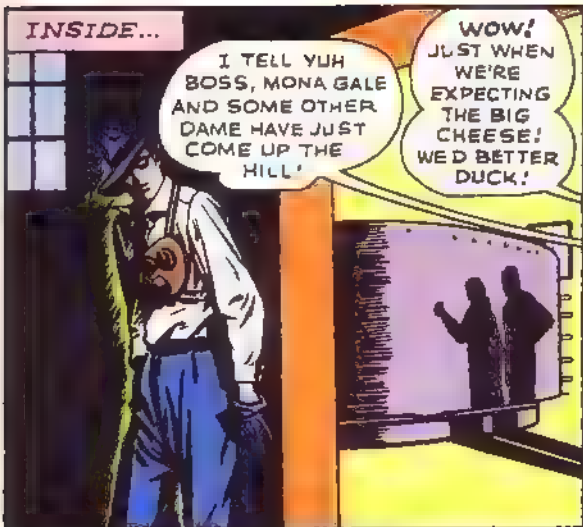
I NEED A FEW AROUND HERE!--- I'M **POSITIVE** SOMEONE'S STEALING MY GOLD!



*INSIDE...*

I TELL YUH BOSS, MONA GALE AND SOME OTHER DAME HAVE JUST COME UP THE HILL!

WOW! JUST WHEN WE'RE EXPECTING THE BIG CHEESE! WE'D BETTER DUCK!



YEAH! WE'D BETTER GRAB THEM WHEN THEY COME IN!--- DON'T WANT TO GET CAUGHT TONIGHT! TOMORROW IT WON'T MATTER!

NAW! WE'LL BE GONE FROM HERE WITH THE STUFF! THIS'LL BE QUITE A HAUL!



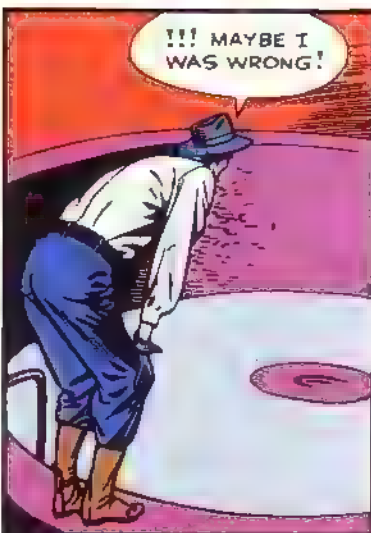
WELL, THIS CLEARS  
UP PART OF THIS CASE!  
THESE TWO ARE GETTING  
PAID OFF WITH AS MUCH GOLD  
AS THEY CAN GET AWAY WITH!  
-- BUT WHO'S THE BOSS AND  
WHAT'S **HIS** PAY-OFF?



THIS IS R SKY BUSINESS!  
BUT IF IT WORKS, I'LL HAVE  
THIS SOLVED IN NO TIME!



!!! MAYBE I  
WAS WRONG!



As the *SPIRIT* descends,  
he has watchers!

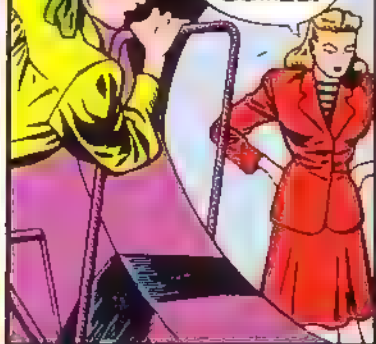
LOOK! THERE'S  
A MAN GOING  
DOWN IN ONE  
OF THOSE  
TUBS!

THESE VATS  
HAVEN'T BEEN  
USED FOR  
YEARS! ...  
THEY'RE  
SPARES!



WHY... WHY...  
THE VAT'S  
EMPTY!

MONKEY  
BUSINESS,  
EH? WE'LL  
JUST LOOK  
AROUND  
UNTIL THE  
*SPIRIT* COMES!



UNLESS WE SAW A  
GHOST, THAT MAN MUST  
HAVE GONE THROUGH ... AH!  
HERE'S THE WAY OUT!

MAYBE WE'D  
BETTER WAIT  
UNTIL YOUR  
FRIEND  
COMES!



NONSENSE! WHY WAIT?  
WE MAY PUT SOMETHING  
OVER ON THE *SPIRIT*  
FOR A CHANGE!







GOOD NIGHT! MORE VISITORS! I'D BETTER HIDE BEHIND THESE OLD PILLARS!

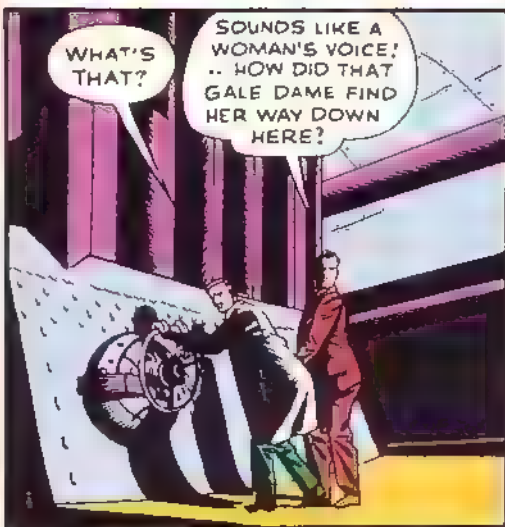


MUSTY PLACE! NOW TO LOOK FOR THAT MAN!

SHHH! SOUNDS CARRY IN A MINE-SHAFT!

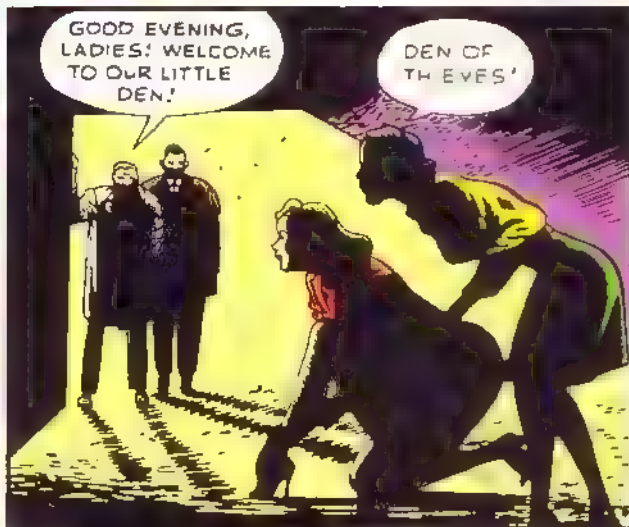


OUCH!... I TURNED MY ANKLE!



WHAT'S THAT?

SOUNDS LIKE A WOMAN'S VOICE! .. HOW DID THAT GALE DAME FIND HER WAY DOWN HERE?



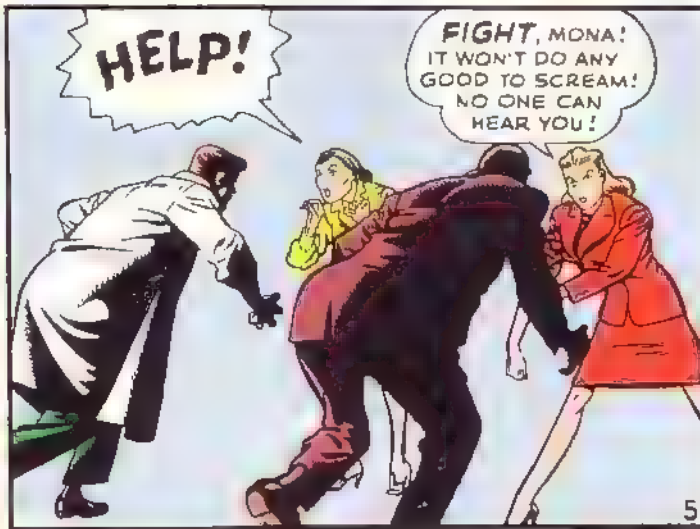
GOOD EVENING, LADIES! WELCOME TO OUR LITTLE DEN!

DEN OF TH EYES'



A NASTY WORD! JUST SAY WE ARE PURLOINING SOME OF THE RICHES OF THE EARTH!

GRAB 'EM!... THEY DON'T GET OUTA HERE ALIVE!



HELP!

FIGHT, MONA! IT WON'T DO ANY GOOD TO SCREAM! NO ONE CAN HEAR YOU!

THOSE CRAZY GIRLS!...  
WHY DID THEY COME  
HERE? NOW I'VE  
REALLY GOT A BIG  
JOB ON MY HANDS!



I'VE ALWAYS  
WANTED TO SEE  
SOMEONE WALK  
A PLANK!

THE CYANIDE  
IN THAT TANK WILL  
FINISH THEM!



COME ON!  
UP THERE!

THE LADIES MAY  
NOT FEEL LIKE AN  
ACID BATH! IT'S  
HARD ON THE  
COMPLEXION!



THE  
SPIRIT!



YOU DON'T HAVE A  
GUN! ONE MOVE  
AND I'LL SEND YOU  
TO JOIN THE REST  
OF THE SPIRITS!  
HA! HA!

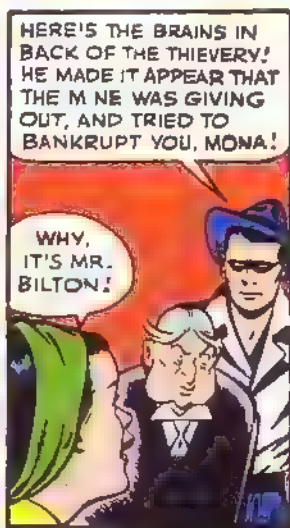
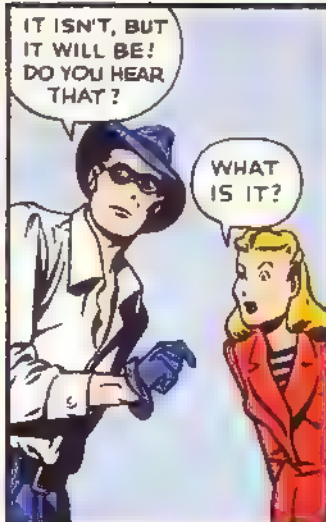
YEAH! UP  
WITH YOUR  
HANDS!



THAT'S  
BETTER!

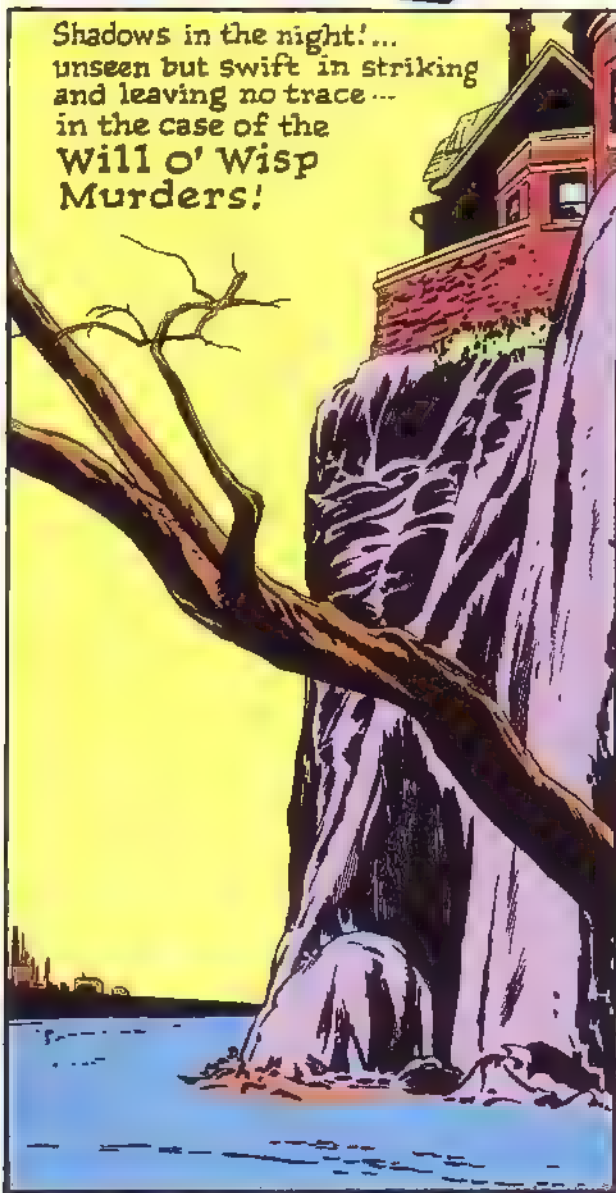






# THE SPIRIT

Shadows in the night!...  
unseen but swift in striking  
and leaving no trace...  
in the case of the  
Will o' Wisp  
Murders!



Ellen Dolan, daughter of the Police Commissioner, is asking a difficult favor....

DOLAN SAYS HE'S SICK  
OF MY BUTTING INTO  
POLICE BUSINESS!

BUT MR VAN VLEET HAS  
WARNED THE POLICE TO  
STAY OUT OF THIS CASE!  
SAYS HIS LIFE DEPENDS ON  
NO INTERFERENCE! YOU  
MUST HELP SPIRIT--  
YOU MUST!



At the home of wealthy KURT VAN VLEET,  
on a rock above the river...

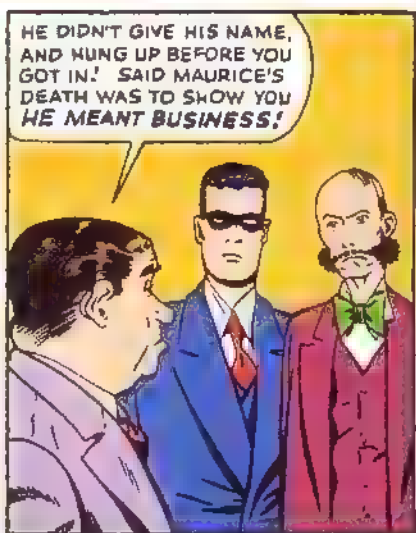
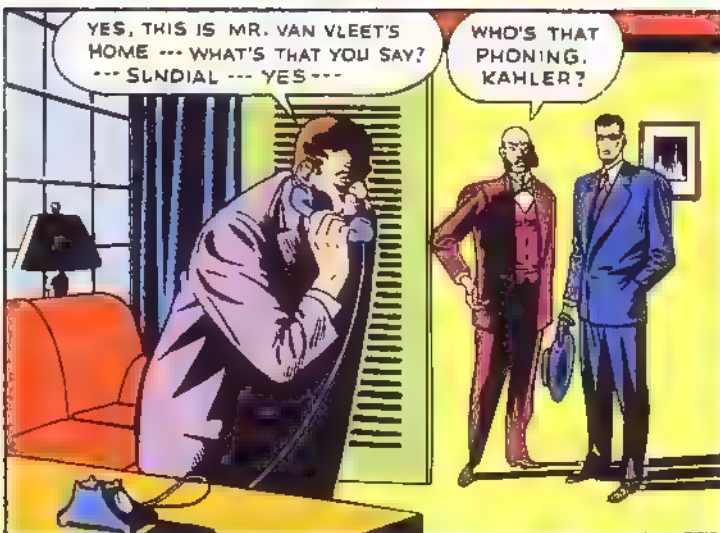
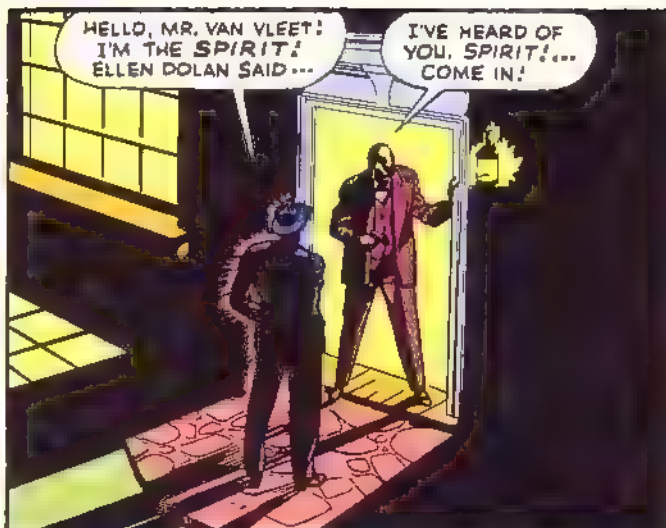
THIS IS A FATAL WARNING DELIVERED AS IF BY  
MAGIC! IT SAYS - PREPARE TO PAY A  
MILLION DOLLARS BY MIDNIGHT! IF NOT  
YOUR SECRETARY MAURICE WILL DIE ON  
THE STROKE OF TWELVE!...

BE CALM,  
MAURICE!...  
READ ON!

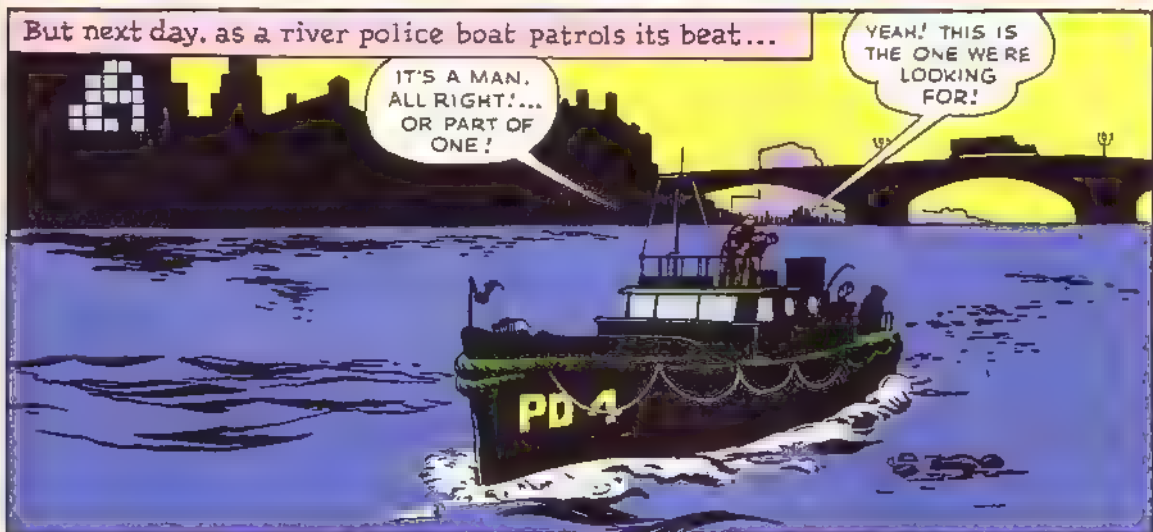
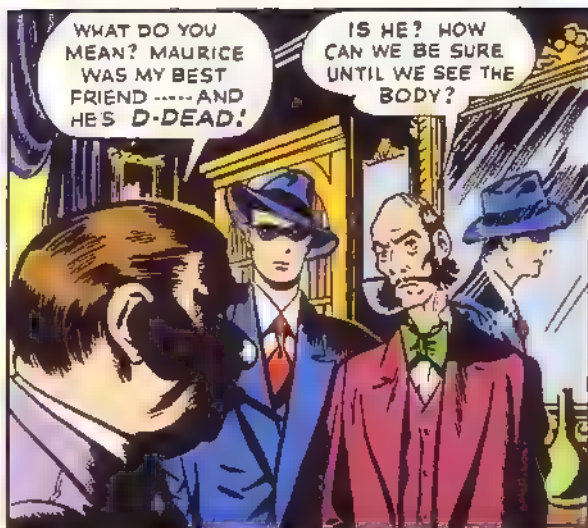
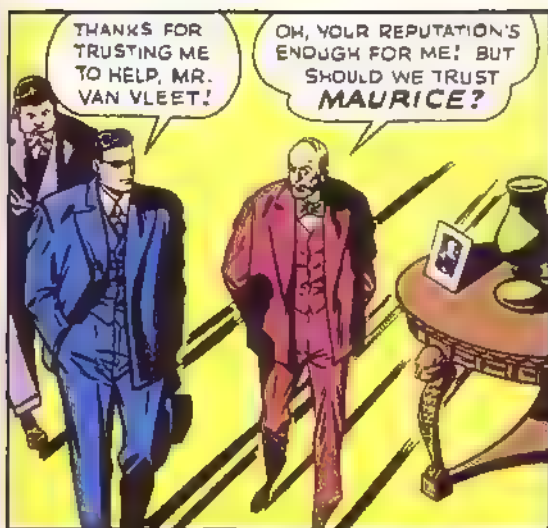


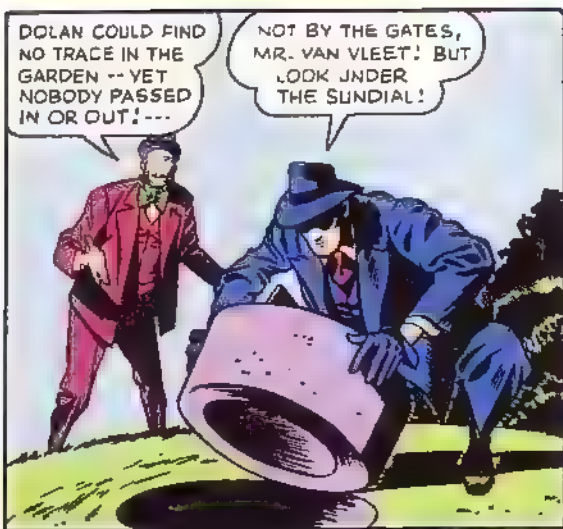
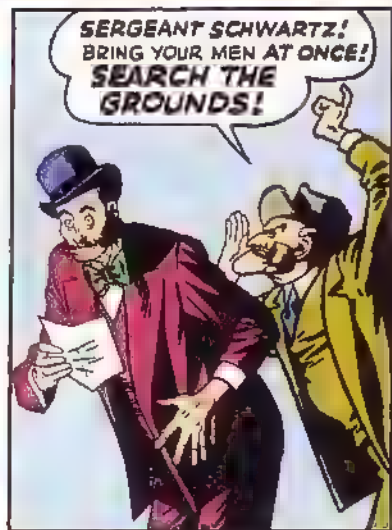
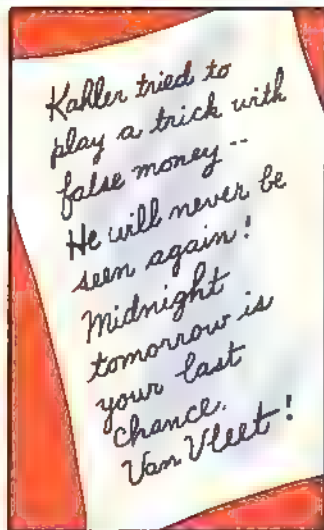
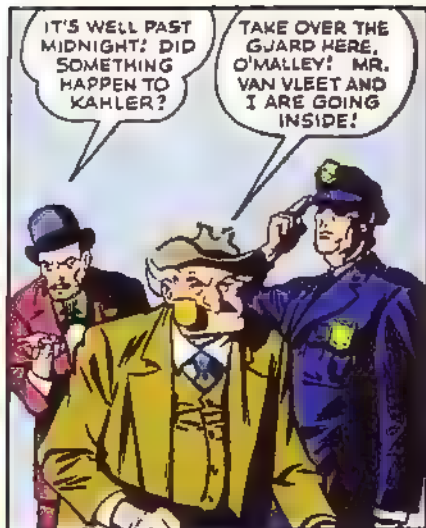
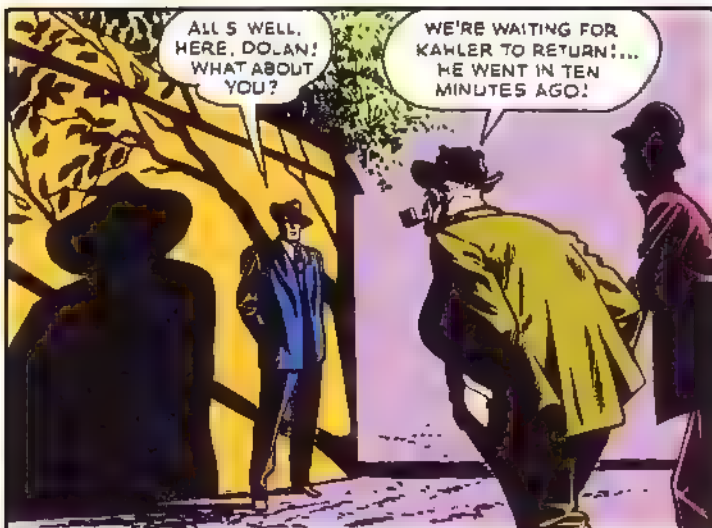














But the tunnel and river  
yield no clues - and next day...

**SPIRIT!**

THEY THREW  
A ROCK--JUST  
MISSED ME!  
--NOBODY IN  
SIGHT NOW!

HERE'S  
A NOTE  
ATTACHED!

By now, Van Vleet,  
you know what it  
will mean to  
ignore this! Row  
out from the foot  
of your bluff--  
alone--with one  
million in cash--  
tonight at  
midnight!  
We do not  
think you will  
try any more  
tricks!

LET ME GO IN  
THE BOAT, MR.  
VAN VLEET!  
I'LL TRAP  
THEM ---

I DON'T DARE!  
THEY'LL KILL ME LIKE  
MAURICE AND KAHLER!  
I MUST PAY THE MILLION  
DOLLARS, AND BE  
GLAD I'M LEFT  
ALIVE!

And once more it is midnight...

YOU, MR. VAN VLEET?  
HAVE YOU THE  
MONEY?

YES! COME CLOSE  
AND I'LL GIVE  
IT TO YOU!

HERE--EXAMINE  
IT TO SEE THAT  
I BROUGHT  
WHAT YOU  
ASKED!--

DON'T PAY  
THEM A CENT,  
MR. VAN  
VLEET!

YOU WERE TOLD  
TO BRING  
**NOBODY,**  
VAN VLEET! --

HE DIDN'T BRING  
ME! I SWAM OUT  
HERE MYSELF!

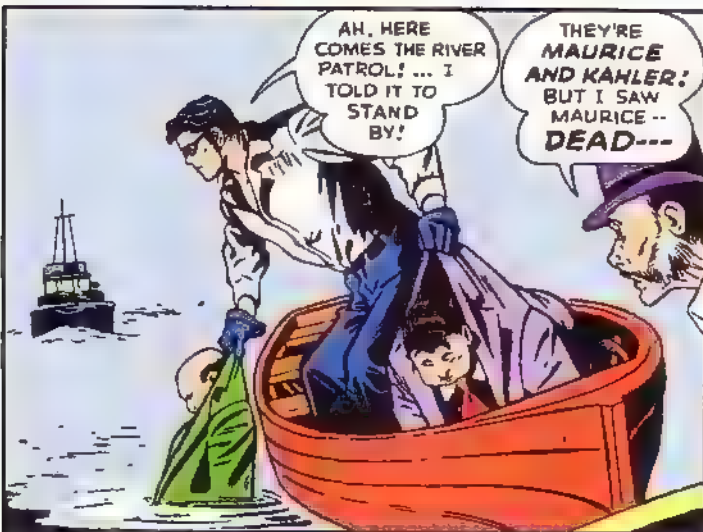


SOMETHING TELLS ME  
YOU'LL RECOGNIZE THESE  
TWO LADS WHEN WE GET  
THEIR HALLOWE'EN  
COSTUMES OFF!



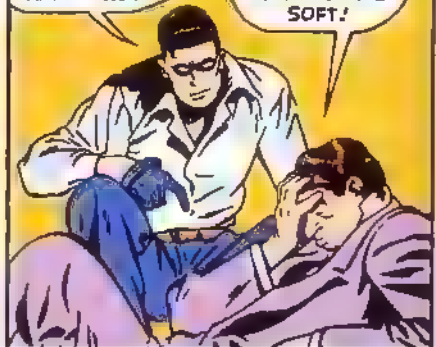
AH, HERE  
COMES THE RIVER  
PATROL! ... I  
TOLD IT TO  
STAND  
BY!

THEY'RE  
**MAURICE  
AND KAHLER!**  
BUT I SAW  
MAURICE --  
**DEAD---**



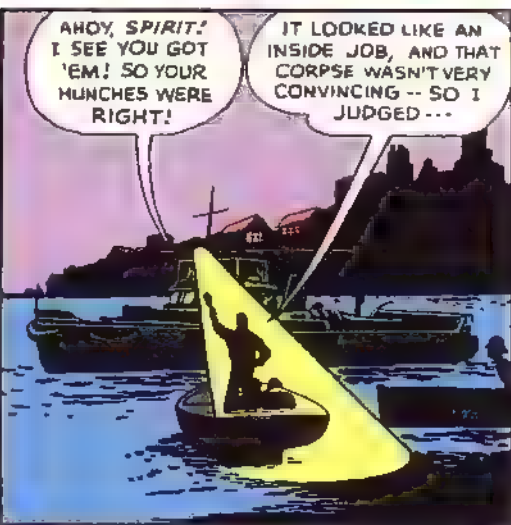
NO, YOU SAW ONLY  
A **DISFIGURED**  
**CORPSE** IN  
**MAURICE'S**  
**CLOTHES!**  
COME ON, BOYS--  
TELL WHAT  
HAPPENED!

OKAY! ... WE  
FAKED OUR DEATHS  
TO SCARE A MILLION  
BUCKS OUT OF THE  
BOSS! WE WERE  
GOING TO DUCK  
SOMEWHERE  
ELSE AND LIVE  
SOFT!



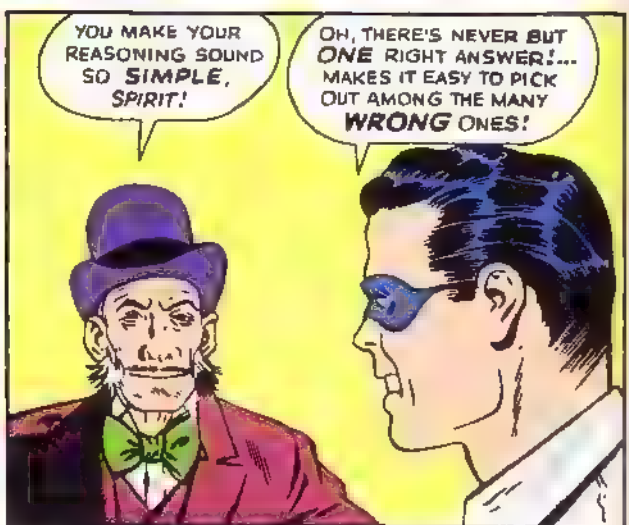
AHOY, **SPIRIT!**  
I SEE YOU GOT  
'EM! SO YOUR  
HUNCHES WERE  
RIGHT!

IT LOOKED LIKE AN  
INSIDE JOB, AND THAT  
CORPSE WASN'T VERY  
CONVINCING -- SO I  
JUDGED---



YOU MAKE YOUR  
REASONING SOUND  
SO **SIMPLE,**  
**SPIRIT!**

OH, THERE'S NEVER BUT  
**ONE** RIGHT ANSWER!...  
MAKES IT EASY TO PICK  
OUT AMONG THE MANY  
**WRONG** ONES!





COMIC  
BOOK  
SECTION

THE RETURN OF DANDY BIBO

November 12, 1944

ACTION  
Mystery  
ADVENTURE

# THE SPIRIT





HIS OLD GANG!

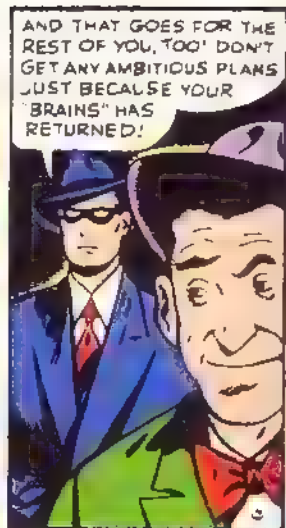


THE SPIRIT!



I'M ALL RIGHT SPIRIT!

WELL, YOU WON'T BE FOR LONG IF YOU START YOUR OLD TRICKS AGAIN!



AND THAT GOES FOR THE REST OF YOU, TOO! DON'T GET ANY AMBITIOUS PLANS JUST BECAUSE YOUR "BRAINS" HAS RETURNED!



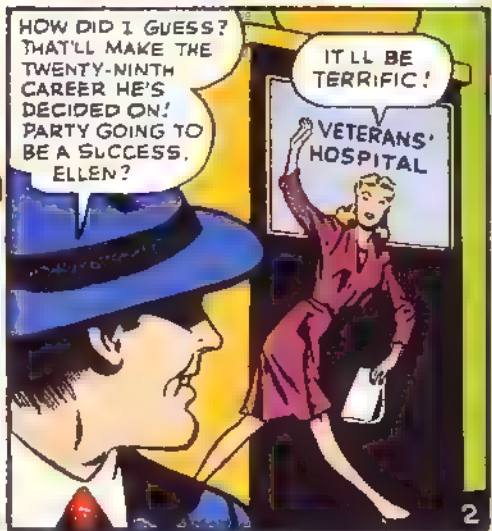
Next day...

QUITE A LOT OF ACTIVITY HERE! I'LL SEE HOW ELLEN AND EBONY ARE DOING!



DECIDED TO MAKE CARPENTRY A CAREER, EBONY?

MIST' SPIRIT BOSS, AH WAS JES' GWINE TO DISCUSS THAT WIF YO' TONIGHT!

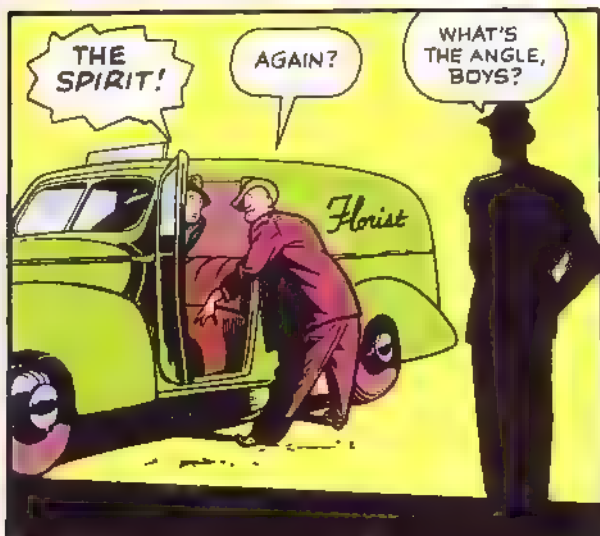
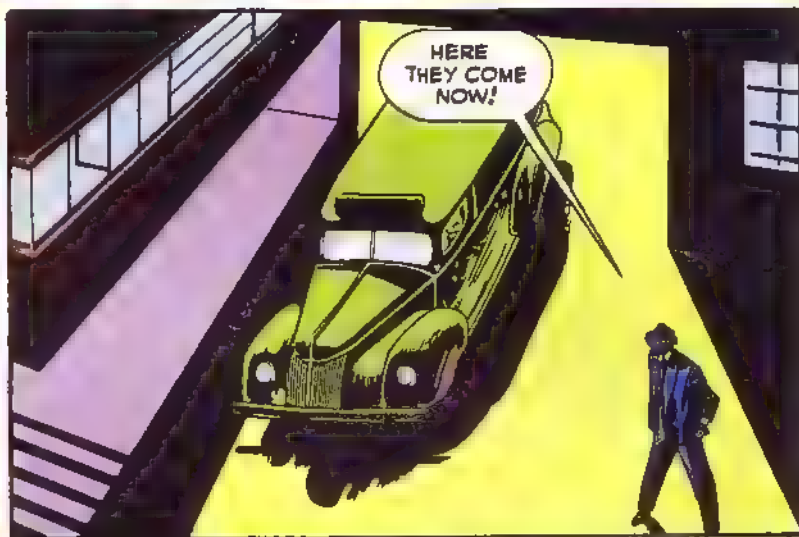
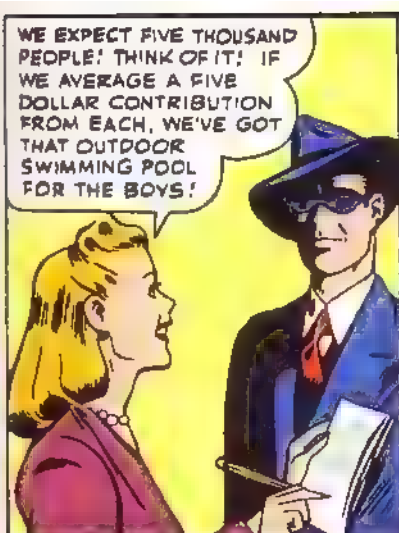


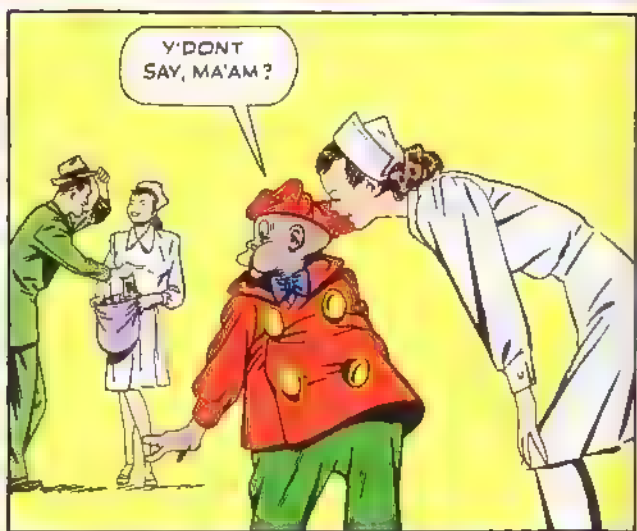
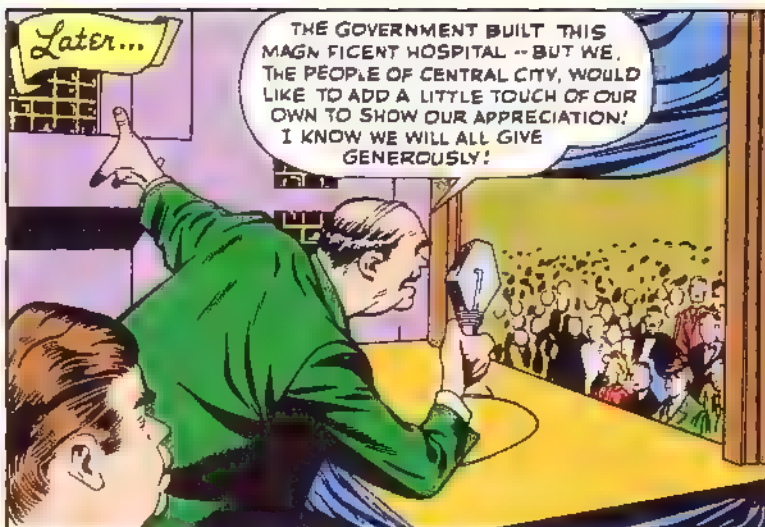
HOW DID I GUESS? THAT'LL MAKE THE TWENTY-NINTH CAREER HE'S DECIDED ON! PARTY GOING TO BE A SUCCESS. ELLEN?

IT'LL BE TERRIFIC!

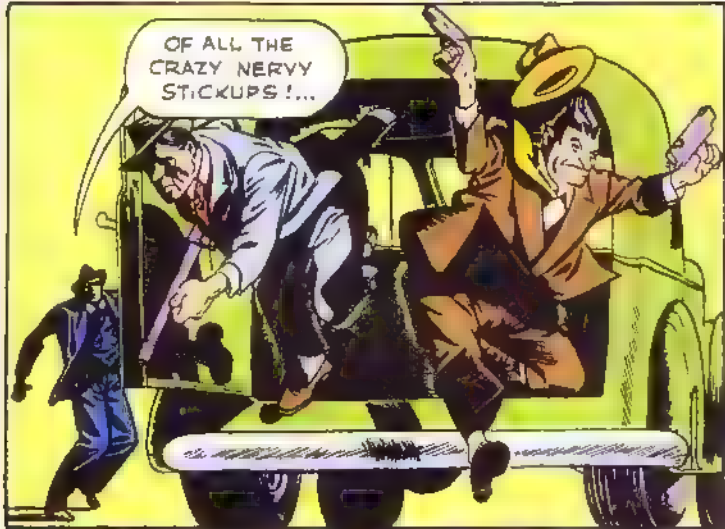
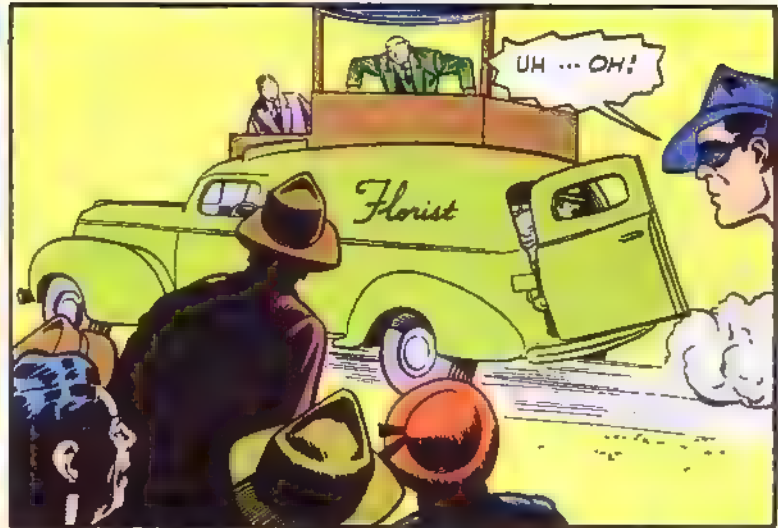
VETERANS' HOSPITAL







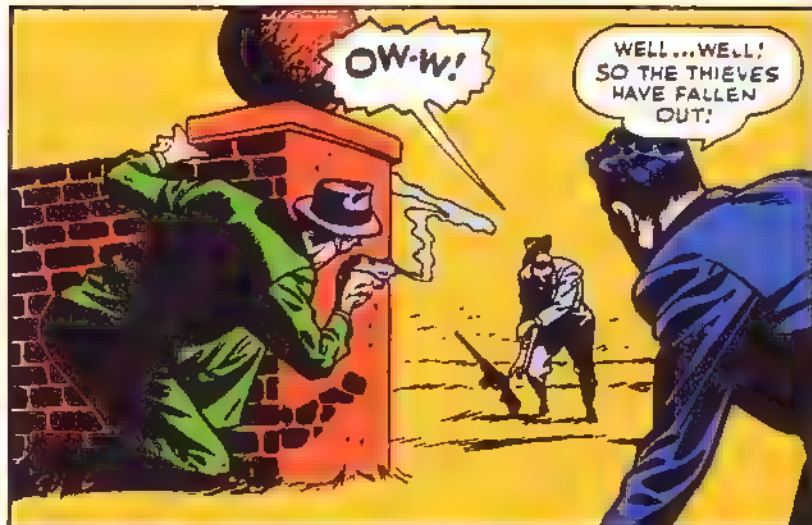






OW!... WHAT A CRACK! I MUST HAVE BLACKED OUT!

DOWN EVERYBODY!



OW-W!

WELL...WELL! SO THE THIEVES HAVE FALLEN OUT!



NICE GOING, DANDY! YOU CAN TELL ME WHY THEY TRIED TO CUT YOU OUT, LATER! MEANWHILE, KEEP FIRING UNTIL I GET CLOSE TO THEM!



NOT THAT WAY, SPIRIT, YOU SAP! ZIGZAG!



SAY, THIS DOES REDUCE THE CHANCES OF GETTING HIT! WONDER WHERE BIBO LEARNED IT?



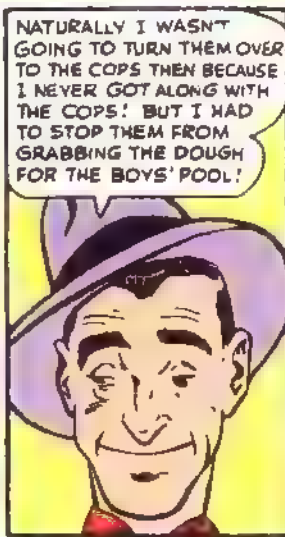
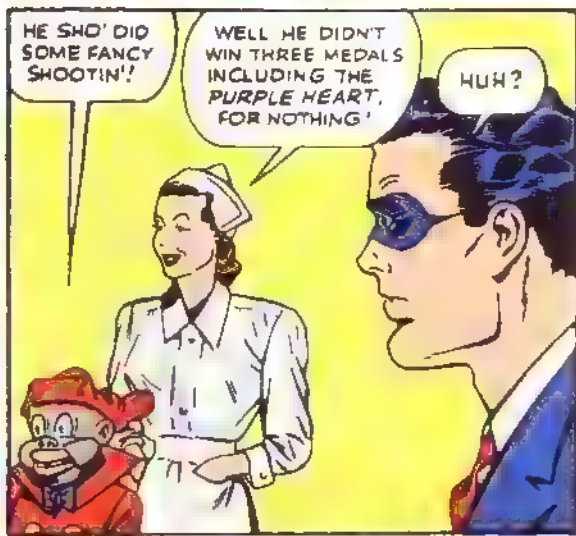
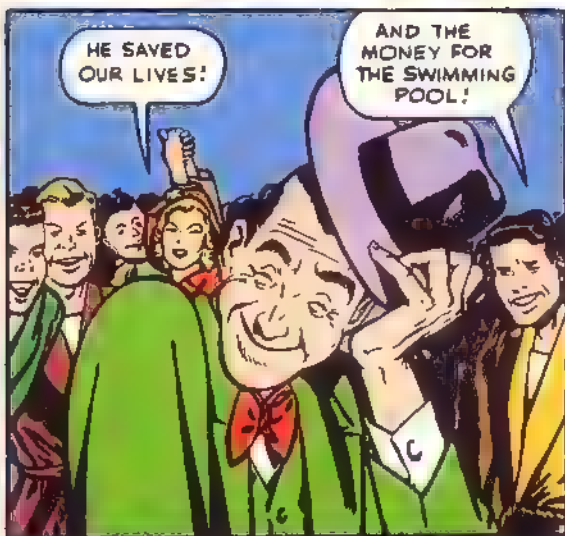
YOU'VE HAD ENOUGH FUN FOR TODAY!



OUT OF AMMO! I SHOULD HAVE TAKEN MORE WHEN I BORROWED THE GUN!

CLICK!





COMIC  
BOOK  
SECTION

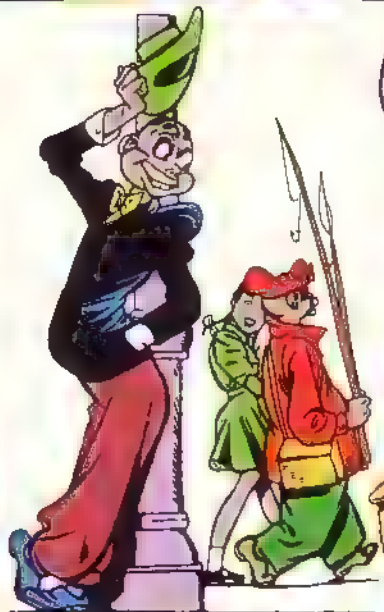
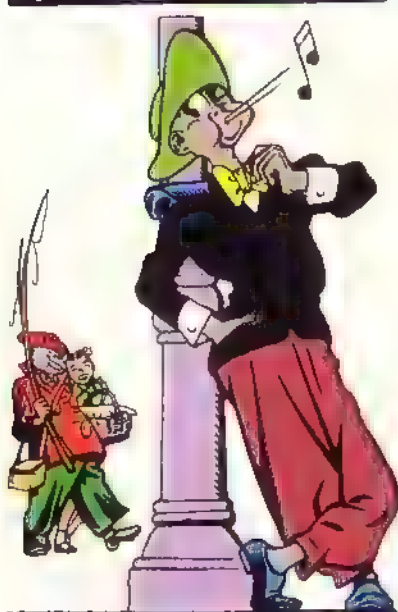
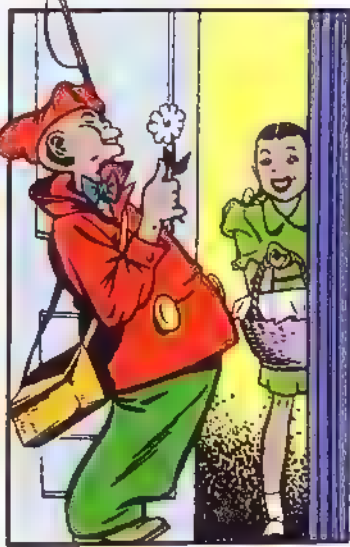
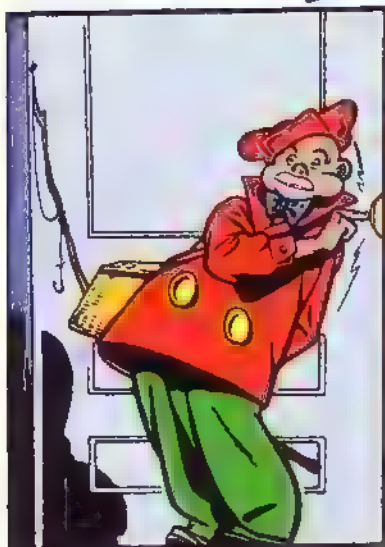
COOTER CREEK

November 19, 1944

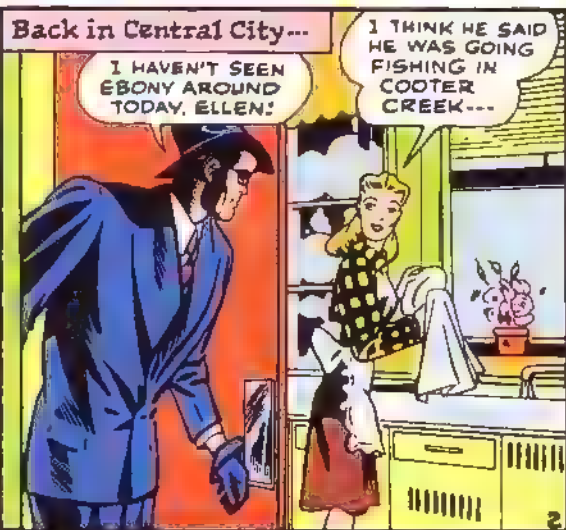
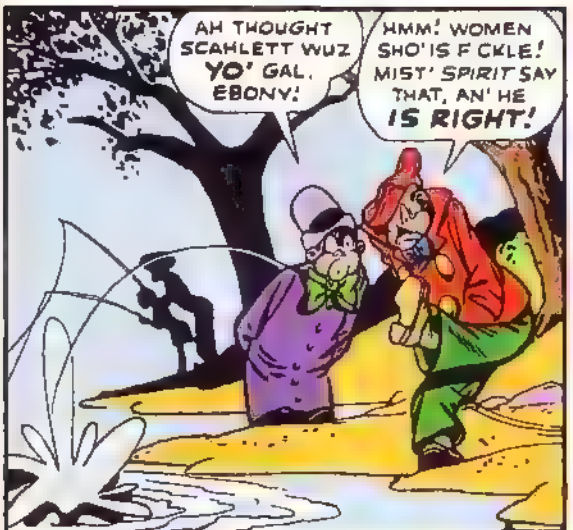
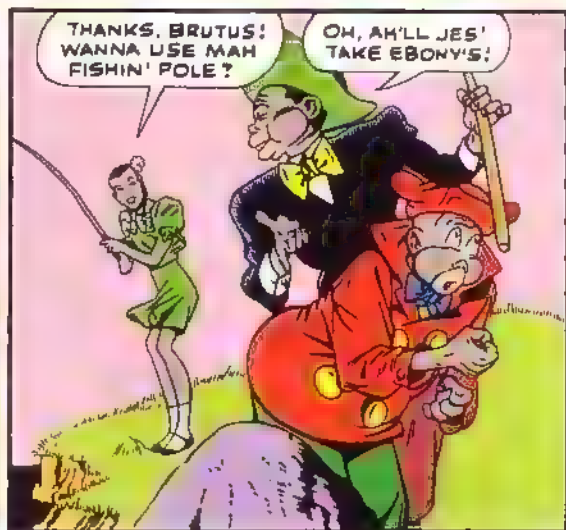
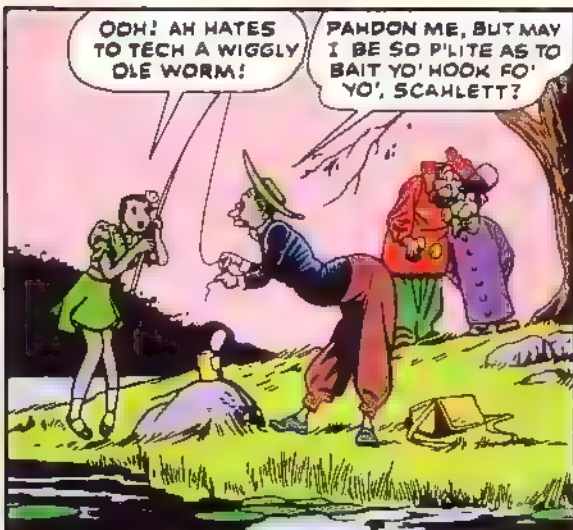
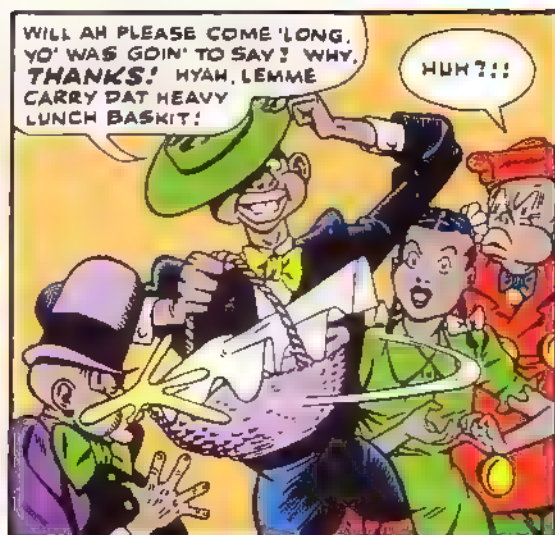
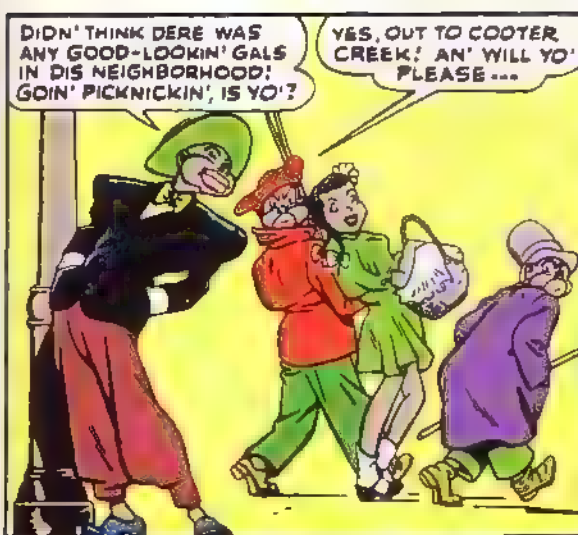
ACTION  
Mystery  
ADVENTURE

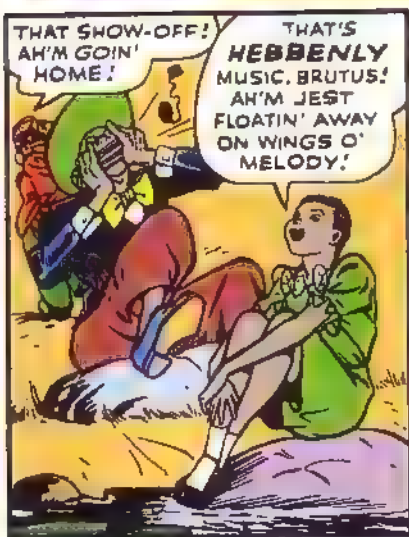
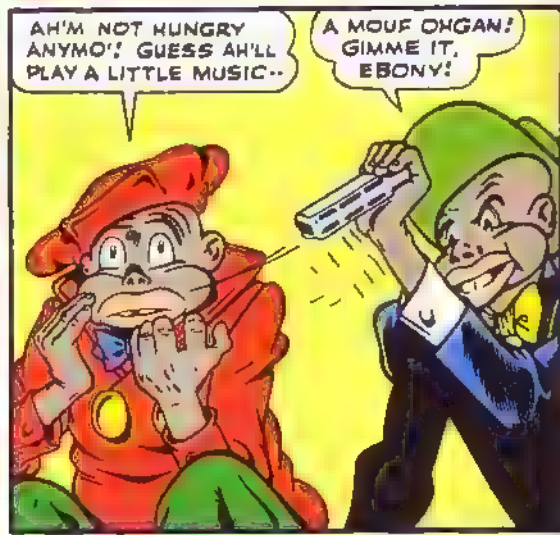
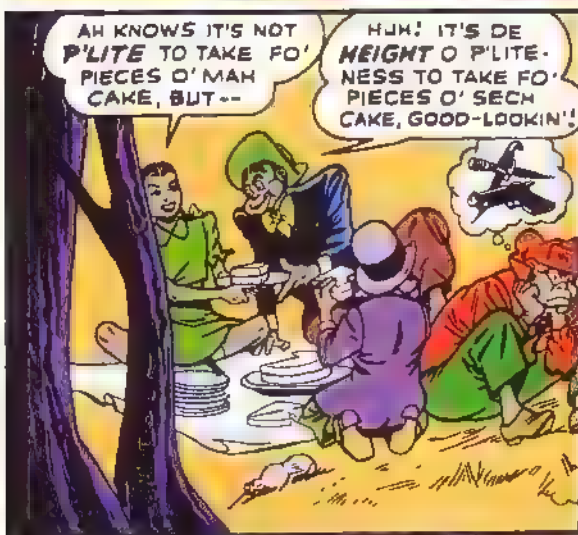
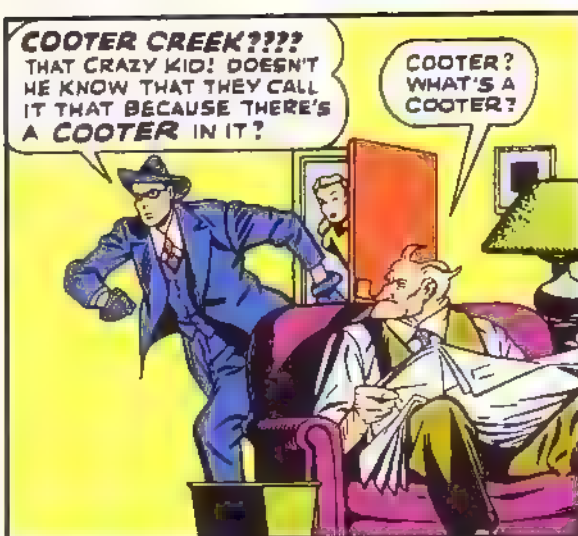
# The Spirit

by Will Eisner

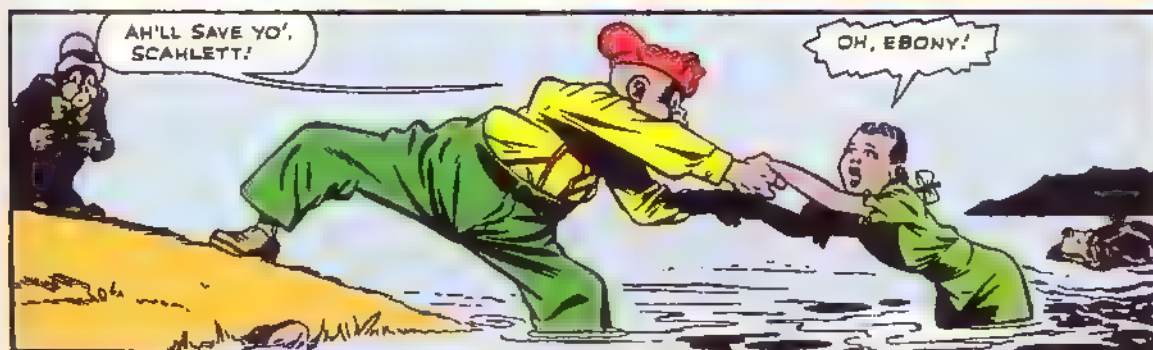
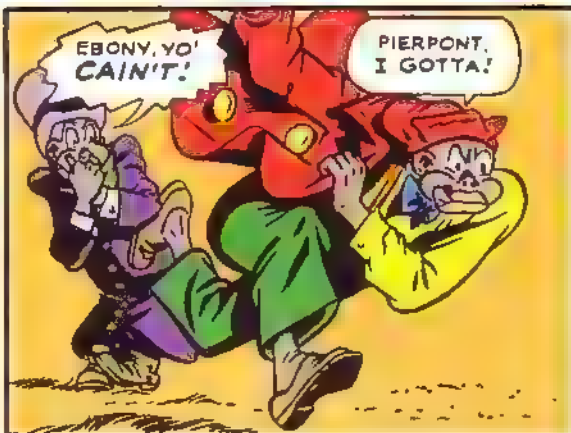
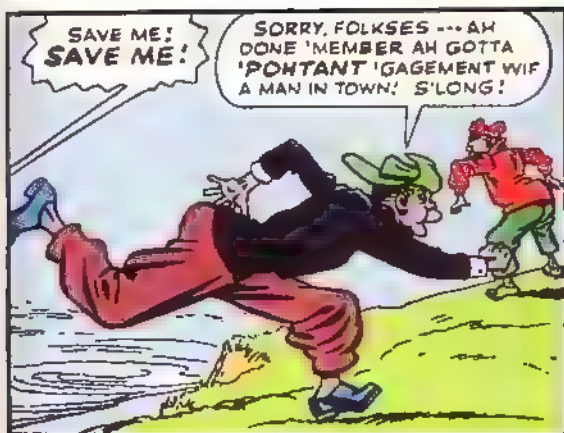


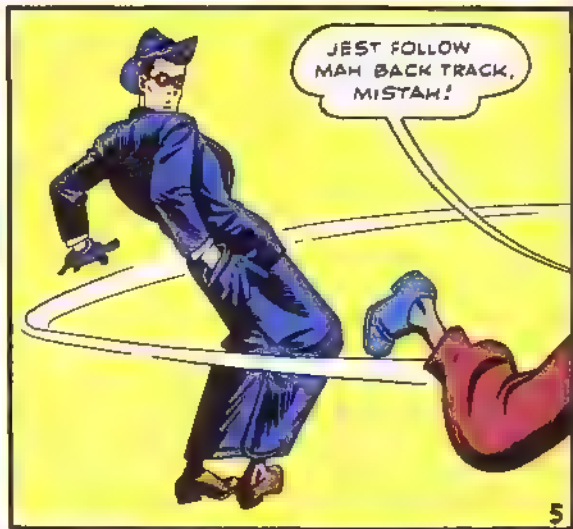
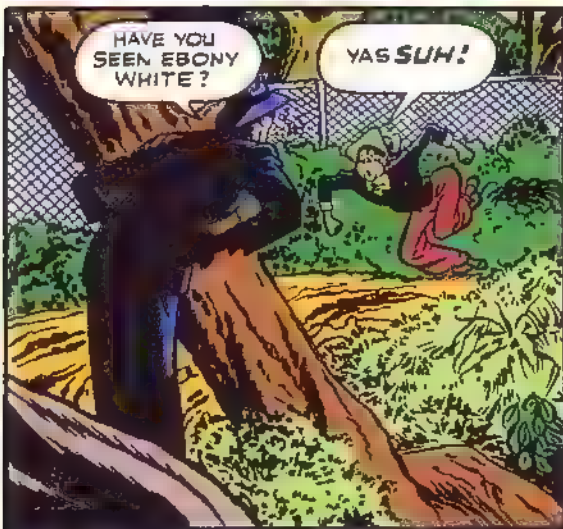
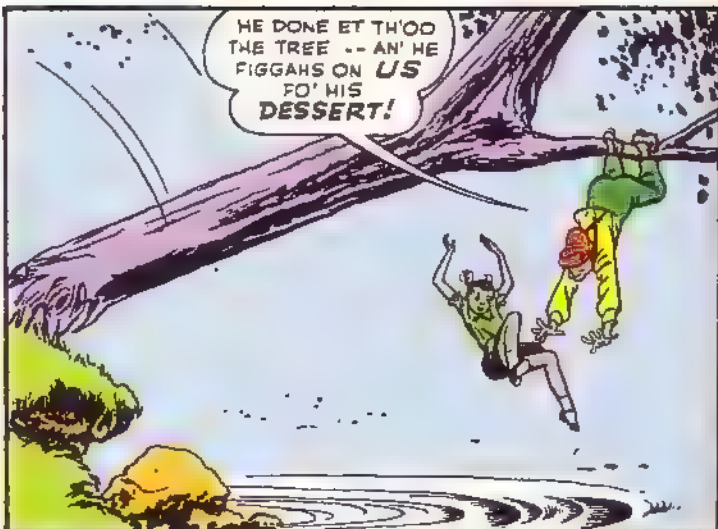
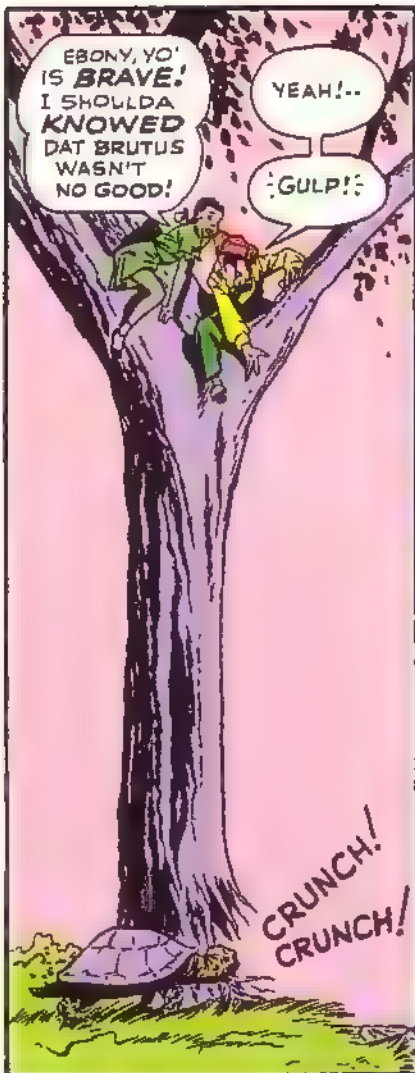












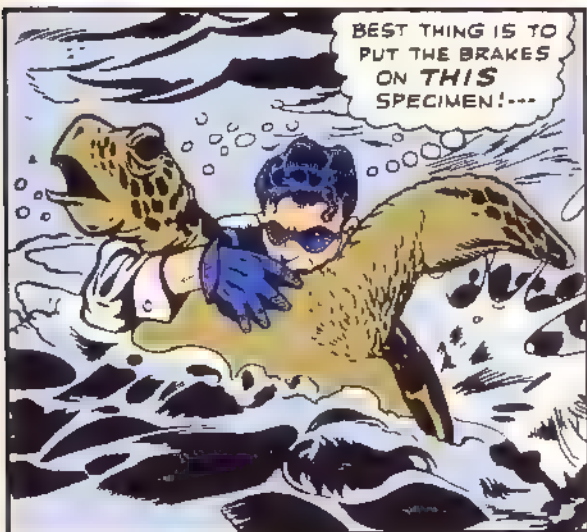


MIST SPIRIT BOSS!  
AH **KNOWED**  
YOU'D SAVE US!

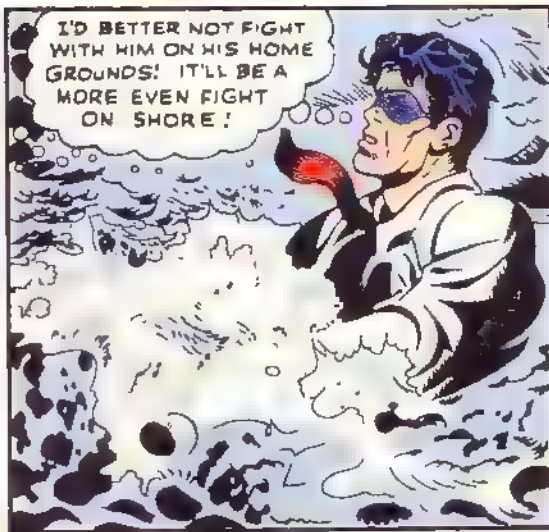
THE  
**COOTER!!!!**



BEST THING IS TO  
PUT THE BRAKES  
ON **THIS**  
SPECIMEN!...



I'D BETTER NOT FIGHT  
WITH HIM ON HIS HOME  
GROUNDS! IT'LL BE A  
MORE EVEN FIGHT  
ON SHORE!



HE'S CHASIN'  
THE SPIRIT  
NOW!

WHICH  
MEANS WE  
SEES ACTION--  
QUICK!



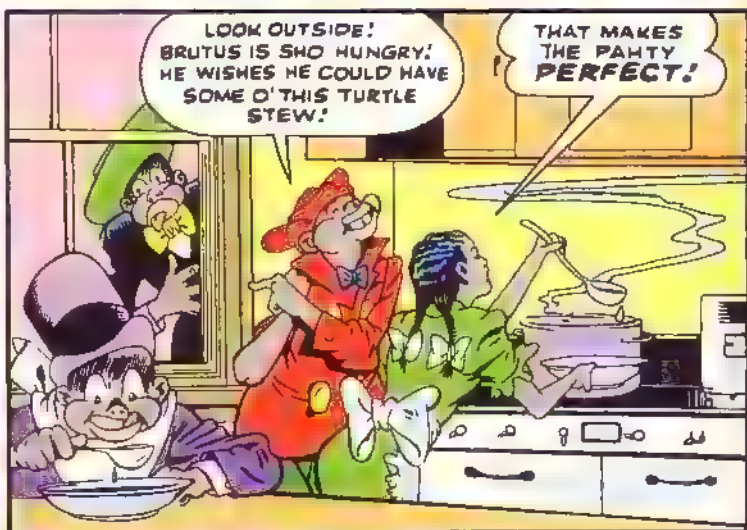
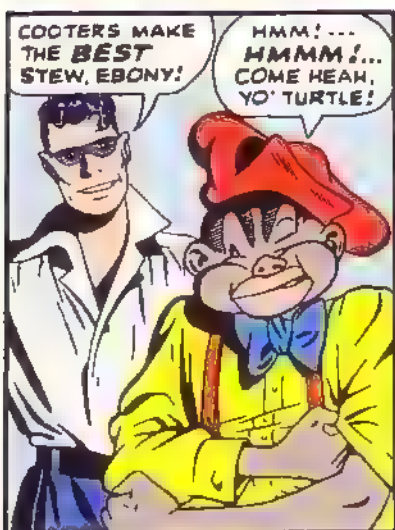
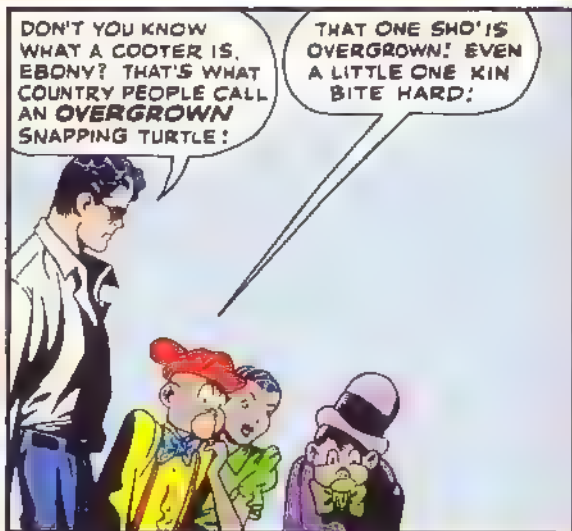
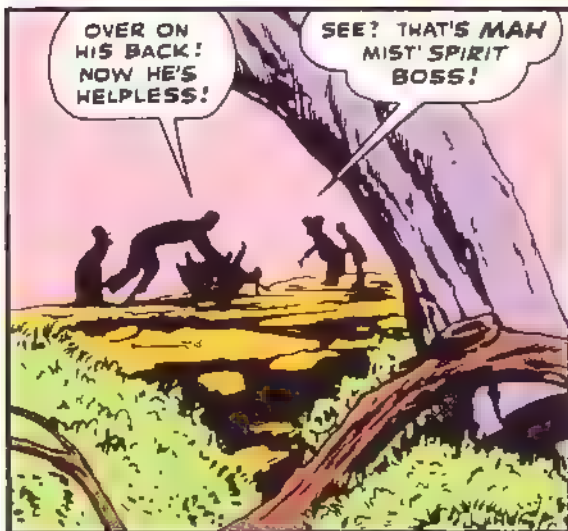
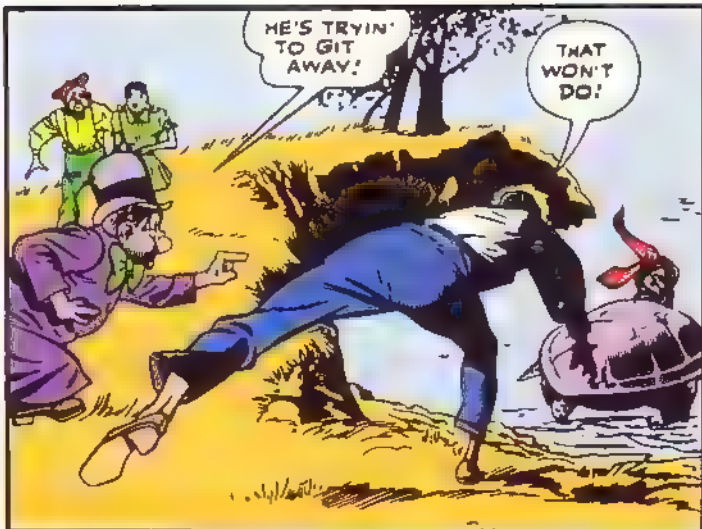
HE CRUNCHES  
WOOD LIKE  
CELERY!

FEED HIM  
THIS, SUH!



THAT'S BETTER!  
AND NOW ...







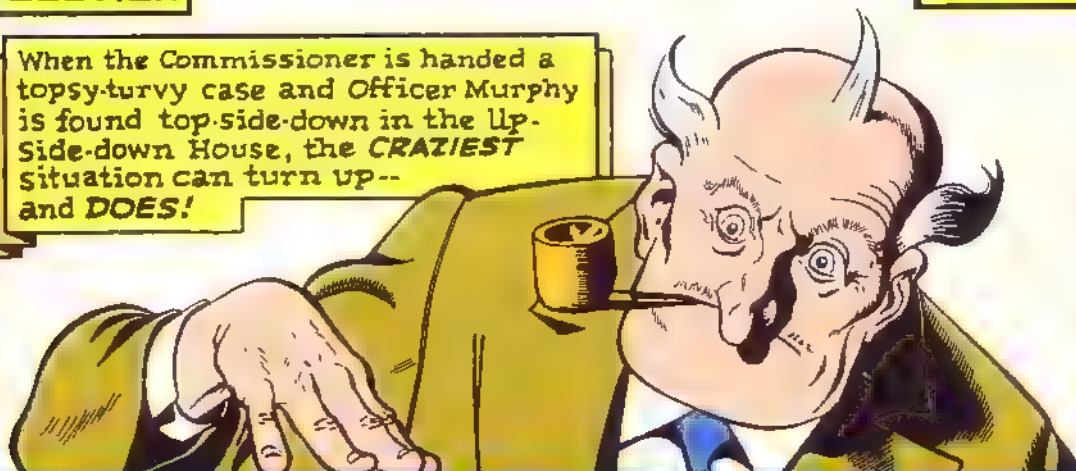
COMIC  
BOOK  
SECTION

UPSIDE DOWN HOUSE

November 26, 1944

ACTION  
Mystery  
ADVENTURE

When the Commissioner is handed a topsy-turvy case and Officer Murphy is found top-side-down in the Up-Side-down House, the **CRAZIEST** situation can turn up-- and **DOES!**



# THE SPIRIT 2611



by  
Will  
EISNER



**Central City Amusement Park!**

BE CAREFUL THERE, BOY! STOP PUSHING IN JERKS! MY RHEUMATISM IS BAD TODAY!

YASSAH --ER-- BOSS!

STEP RIGHT UP, FOLKS! SEE HOW THE WACKIEST PEOPLE IN CREATION LIVE! THIS ATTRACTION IS STRAIGHT FROM THE NUT HOUSE!

THE RANSOM FOR THE MARDEN MASTERPIECE WAS TO BE LEFT IN THE CRAZY HOUSE! IF THE THIEF EVER SEES THAT FACE, HE WON'T GO IN!

TWO TICKETS, PLEASE!

OKAY! TWO TICKETS! ANYONE ELSE?

THAT'S POLICE SERGEANT SULLIVAN! I'D KNOW THOSE FEET ANYWHERE!... MURPHY'S IN THE CRAZY BANK--GUARDING THE TEN THOUSAND BUCKS!

MIST' SPIRIT BOSS, AH DON' THINK NO PICTURE'S WORTH THAT MUCH MONEY!

THAT'S MCGILL, THE GUARD WHO WAS ASSAULTED WHEN THE MASTERPIECE WAS STOLEN! HE'S HERE TO IDENTIFY THE CRIMINAL!

THE COPS SHO' DON' GIVE THAT THIEF A CHANCE!

THE THIEF OF THE MASTERPIECE SAYS HE'LL COME HERE TO COLLECT AT TWO MINUTES AFTER ONE! IT'S ONE MINUTE AFTER NOW, AND ..... WHAT'S THAT?

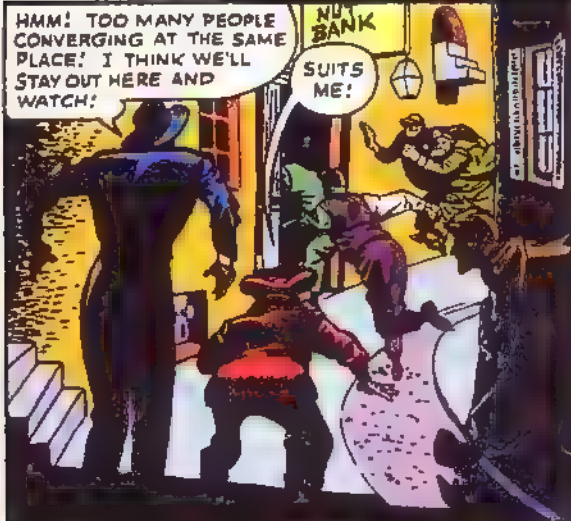
**HELP!**

COME ON, EBONY! IT LOOKS AS THOUGH WE ARRIVED!

AH'S COMIN', 'CAUSE AH'S NOT GONNA STAY HEAH!

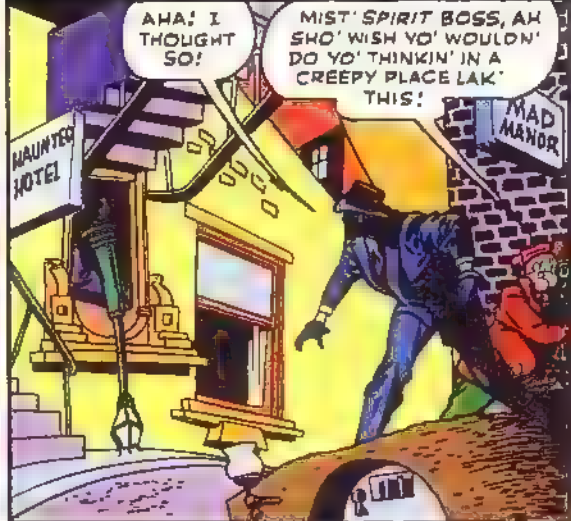
TO CELLAR OF HORROR





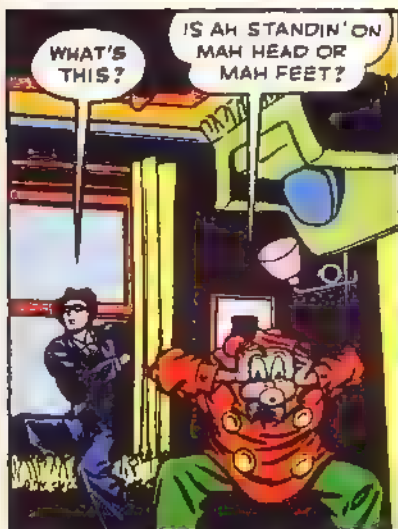
HMM! TOO MANY PEOPLE CONVERGING AT THE SAME PLACE! I THINK WE'LL STAY OUT HERE AND WATCH!

SUITS ME!



AHA! I THOUGHT SO!

MIST' SPIRIT BOSS, AH SHO' WISH YO' WOULDN' DO YO' THINKIN' IN A CREEPY PLACE LAK' THIS!



WHAT'S THIS?

IS AH STANDIN' ON MAH HEAD OR MAH FEET?

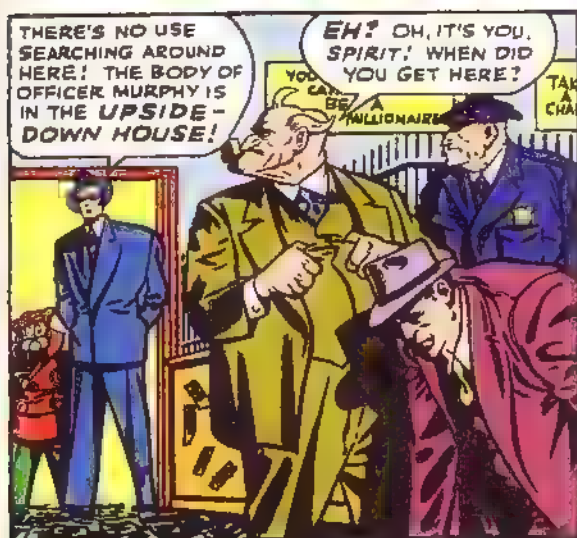


MURPHY! HE WAS A GOOD COP, TOO! ..... STRANGE-- RIGOR MORTIS HAS SET IN! YET HIS CRY FOR HELP CAME LESS THAN TWO MINUTES AGO!



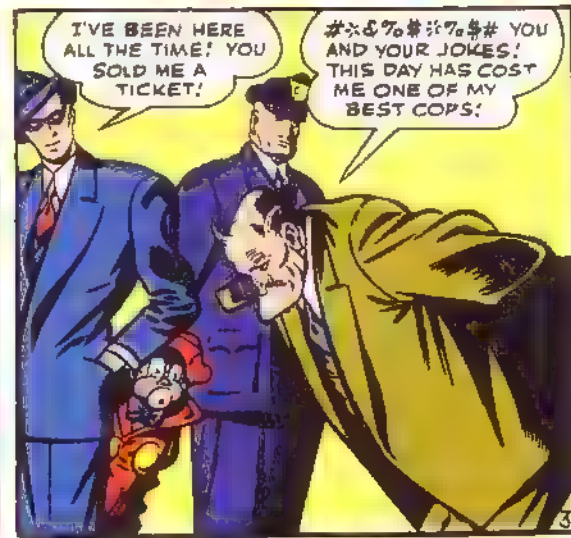
WE'LL GET DOLAN OVER HERE -- THEN WE'LL DO SOME INVESTIGATING OF OUR OWN! THE NEXT HOUSE TO THIS IS THE HAUNTED HOUSE!

YASSUH! WHERE WE LEFT THE PUSHCART!



THERE'S NO USE SEARCHING AROUND HERE! THE BODY OF OFFICER MURPHY IS IN THE UPSIDE-DOWN HOUSE!

EH? OH, IT'S YOU, SPIRIT! WHEN DID YOU GET HERE?



I'VE BEEN HERE ALL THE TIME! YOU SOLD ME A TICKET!

YOU AND YOUR JOKES! THIS DAY HAS COST ME ONE OF MY BEST COPS!

THERE GENTLEMEN  
YOU SEE...  
WHAT TH...!

MIST' SPIRIT BOSS, LET'S  
GET OUT O' MEAH! ...IT'S  
HAUNTED FO SURE!

LOOK HERE! YOU'RE  
NOT SO CLEAR IN THE  
MESS YOURSELF!  
THERE WAS NO ONE  
ELSE IN THIS PLACE  
BUT YOU YOU KNOW!

A MOMENT AGO THIS  
ROOM HELD A CORPSE,  
AND I INTEND TO  
FIND OUT WHAT  
HAPPENED TO IT!

THIS PLACE  
GIVES ME THE  
WILLIES! FIRST  
THE PICTURE  
DISAPPEARS -  
THEN THE DOUGH,  
AND THEN A COP!  
IT AIN'T NORMAL!

MORE NORMAL ON INVESTIGATION: A MASTERPIECE  
IS PURLOINED FROM THE CENTRAL ART GALLERY:  
THEN COMES A RANDOM NOTE SAYING PICTURE WILL  
BE RETURNED IF TEN THOUSAND DOLLARS IS  
BROUGHT HERE! I WENT THROUGH THE  
BUILDING PERMIT FILES TO SEE WHO  
OWNED THIS ATTRACTION!

ROUTINE STUFF!  
WHAT DID YOU  
FIND?

A ROUTINE ANSWER!  
THIS PLACE WAS BUILT  
BY JEROME ATKINS  
AFTER HIS ART GALLERY  
IN TOWN FAILED!

THEN WHAT  
ARE WE WAITING  
FOR? I'LL PUT  
THE SQUEEZE  
ON THAT LUG  
UNTIL HE THINKS  
THE THIRD DEGREE  
IS A NURSERY  
GAME!

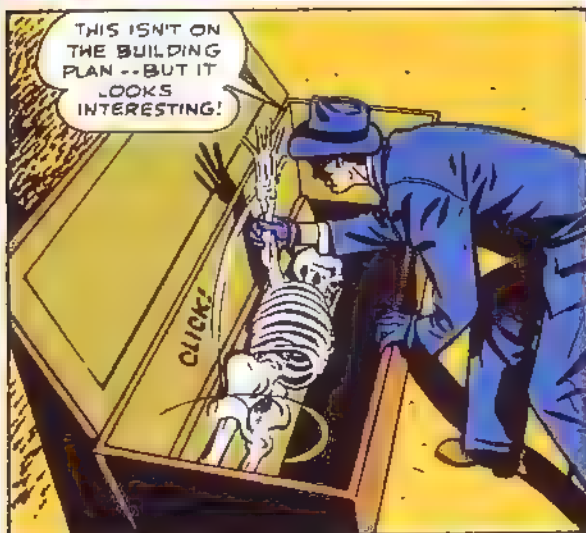
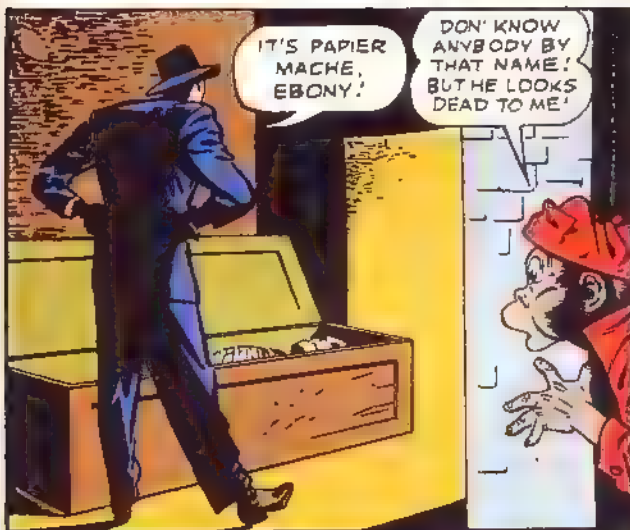
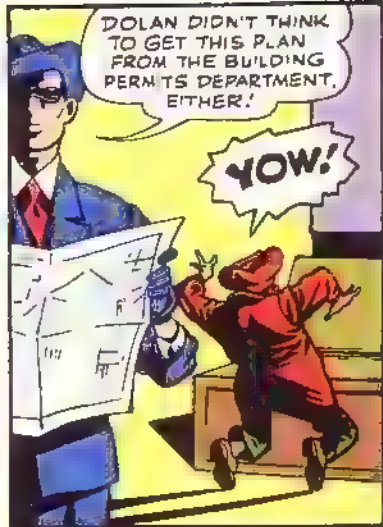
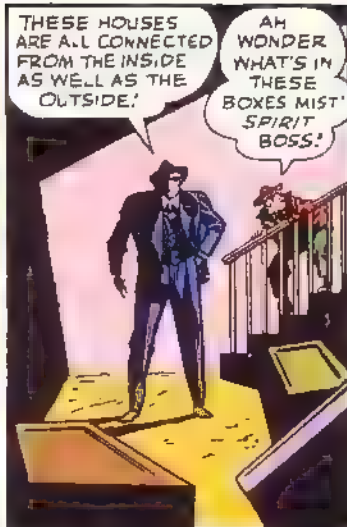
NOT IN THIS  
WORLD YOU  
WON'T! HE  
DIED LAST  
YEAR AND HIS  
WIDOW SOLD  
TH'S PROPERTY!

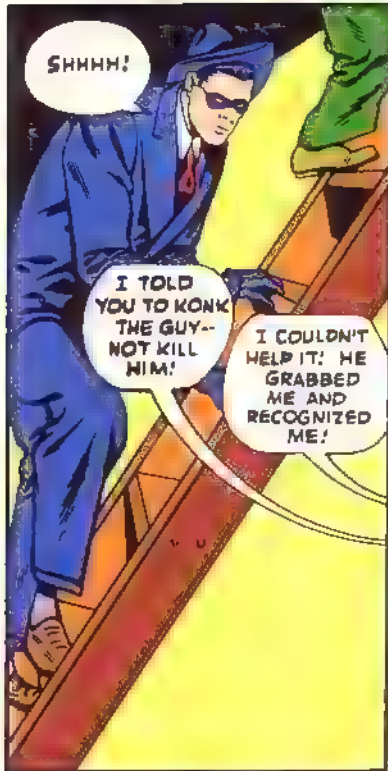
TO THINK THE  
SPIRIT, A GUY  
I THOUGHT I  
COULD DEPEND  
ON, HAS LET  
ME DOWN!

YOU GET ME  
WRONG!... I  
HAVE IDEAS!  
WHY DON'T  
YOU LET ME  
FINISH WHAT  
I'M SAYING?

GO AHEAD WITH  
YOUR IDEAS! IN THE  
MEANTIME I'M GOING  
TO CALL IN DETECTIVES  
WITH BRAINS!







SHHHH!

I TOLD YOU TO KONK THE GUY-- NOT KILL HIM!

I COULDN'T HELP IT! HE GRABBED ME AND RECOGNIZED ME!



KILLIN' COPS! --WHAT A SAP! WE COULDA GOT AWAY WITH THAT DOUGH AND SOLD THE PICTURE, TOO! FOR MY OWN BROTHER, YOU'RE **DUMB!**

NOT SO **DUMB!** I GOT THE MONEY! NOW WE CAN GET TO SOUTH AMERICA AND SELL THAT PICTURE!



THINKING OF DEPRIVING US OF YOUR COMPANY AND A MASTER-PIECE, TOO?

**THE SPIRIT!**



HOW DID YOU GET IN HERE?

I CAME IN THROUGH THE DOOR OF DEATH ABOVE!



YOU'RE GOING OUT THAT WAY, TOO!

TSK! TSK! DON'T BE IMPULSIVE!

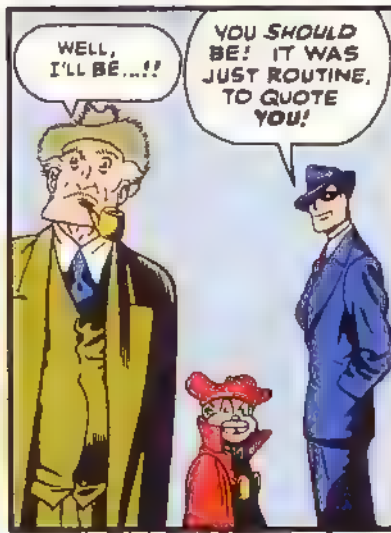
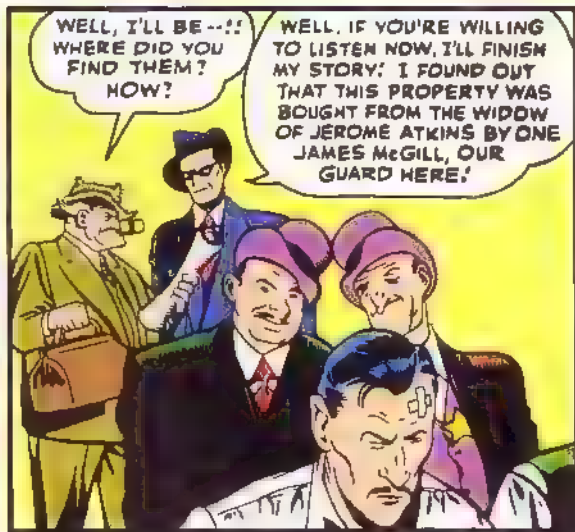
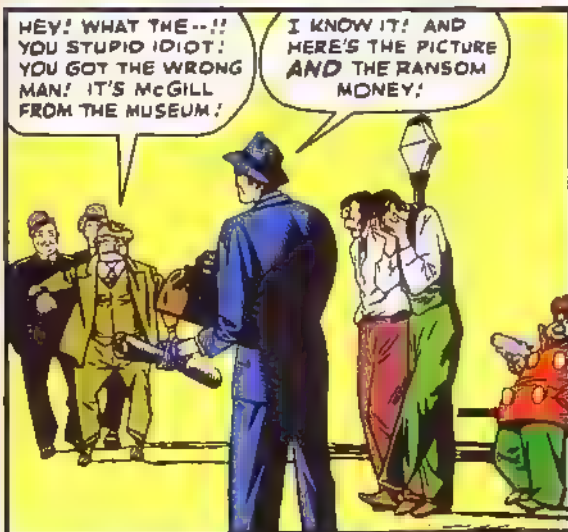
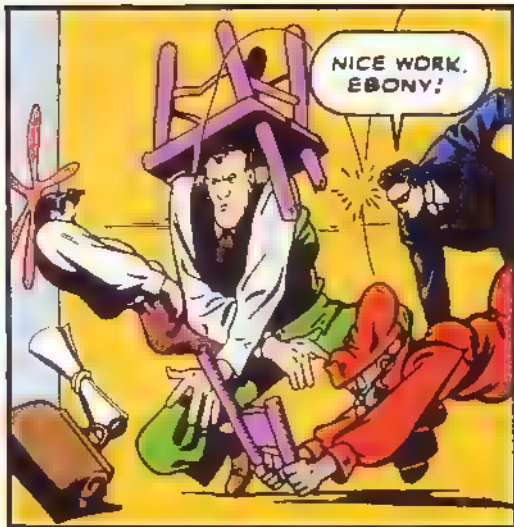
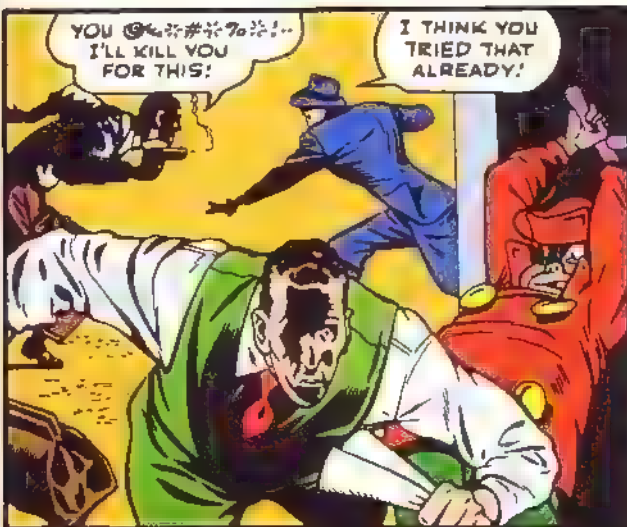


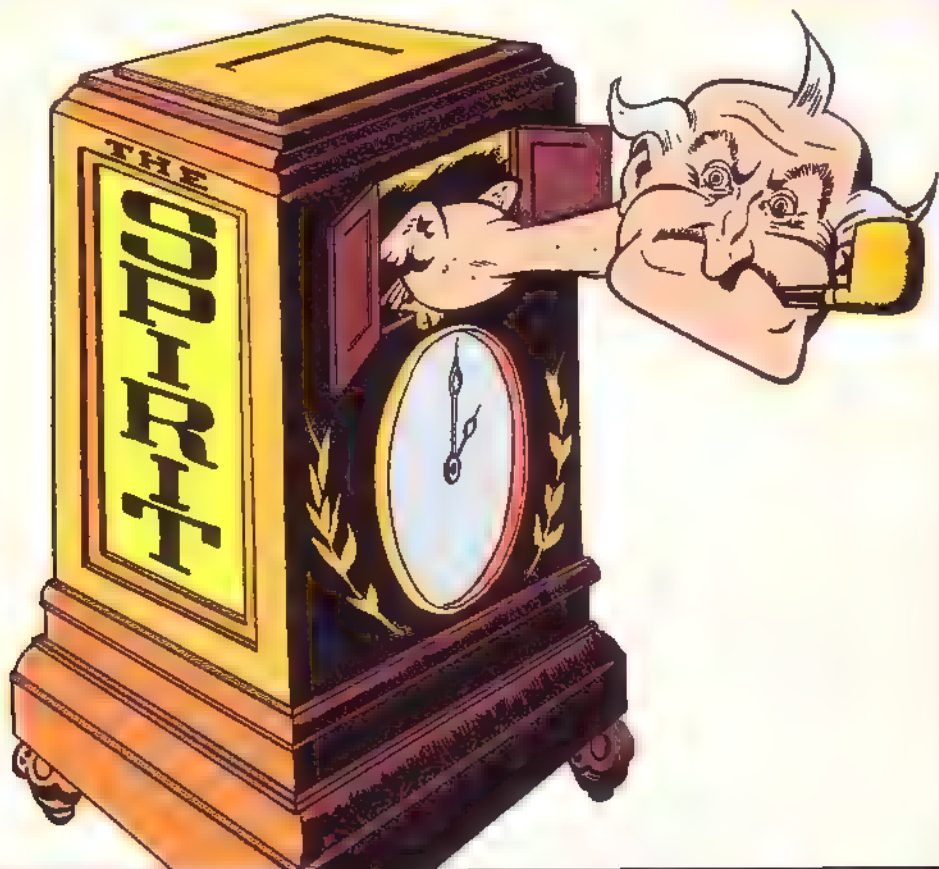
**HEY!** WHAT THE...!!

I WORE A BULLET-PROOF VEST IN CASE SOMETHING LIKE THIS SHOULD HAPPEN!

BANG!







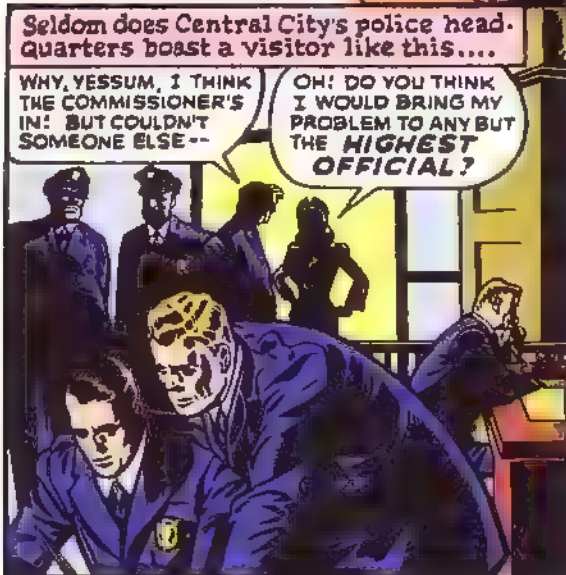
Seldom does Central City's police headquarters boast a visitor like this....

WHY, YESSUM, I THINK THE COMMISSIONER'S IN! BUT COULDN'T SOMEONE ELSE--

OH! DO YOU THINK I WOULD BRING MY PROBLEM TO ANY BUT THE HIGHEST OFFICIAL?

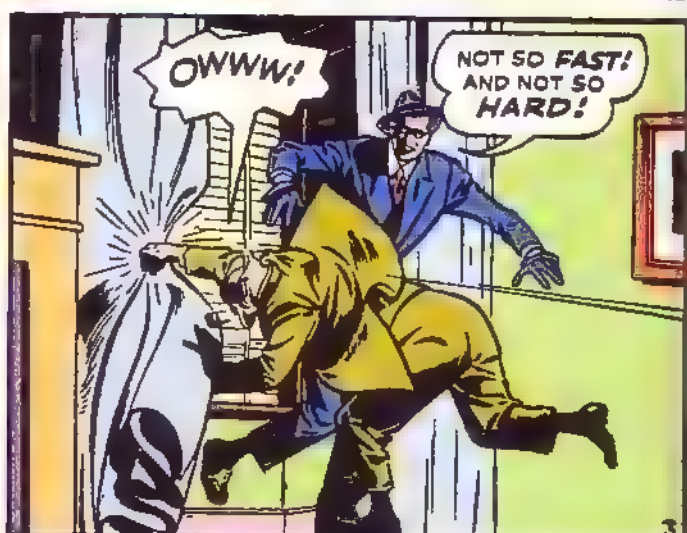
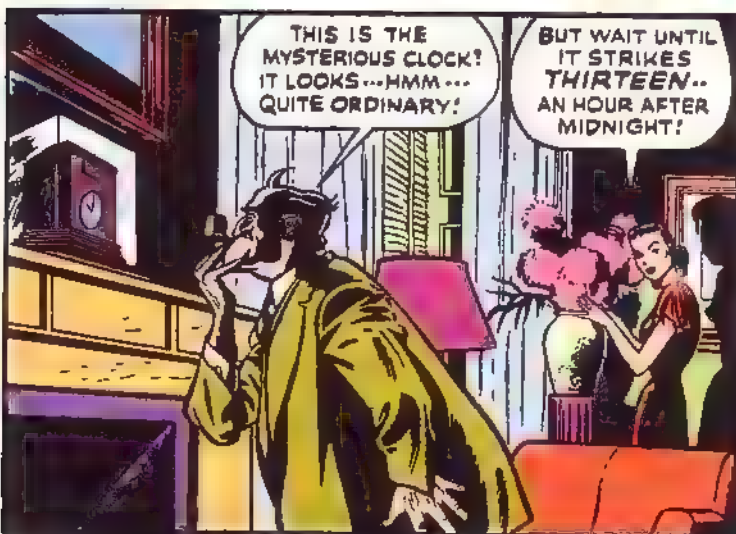
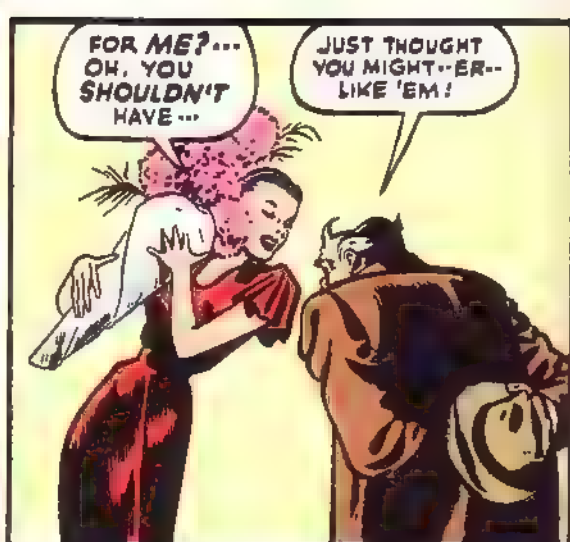
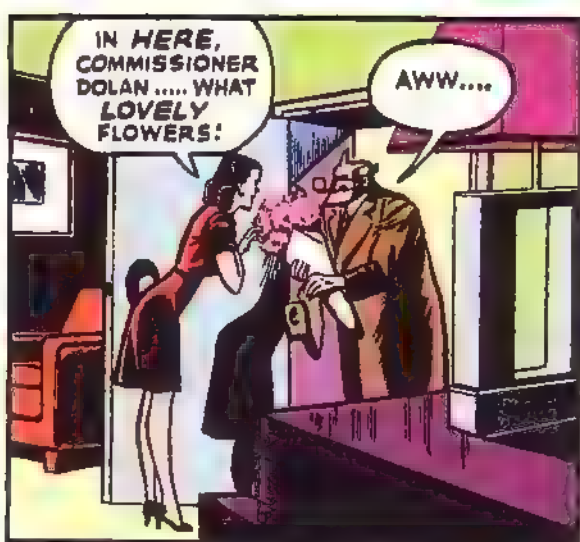
CONDUCT ME TO HIM! I AM LOLA LABELLE--THE YEAR'S GREATEST **DRAMATIC STAR!**

G-GOSH--- RIGHT THIS WAY, MISS LABELLE---

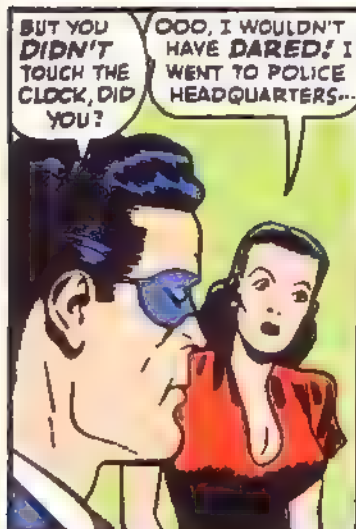
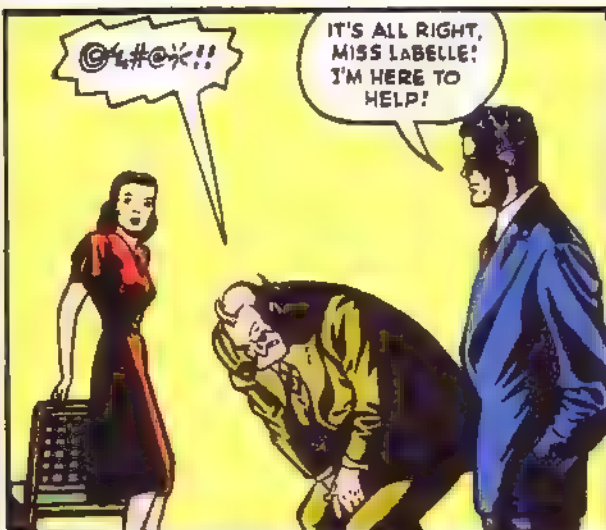






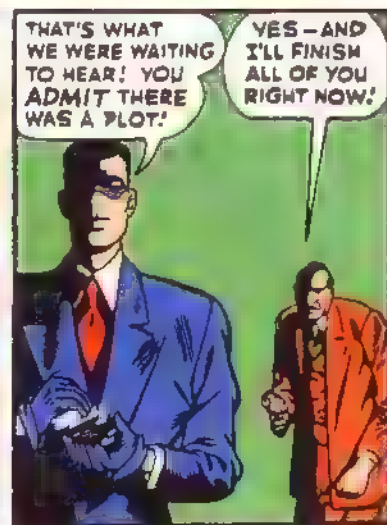
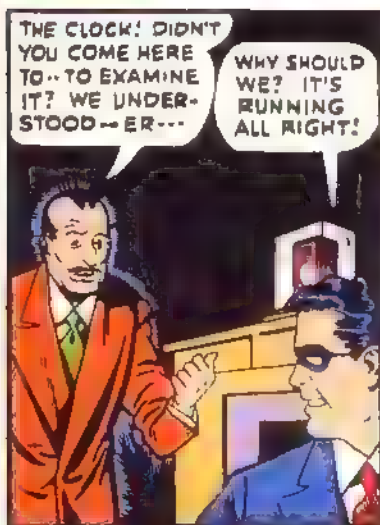
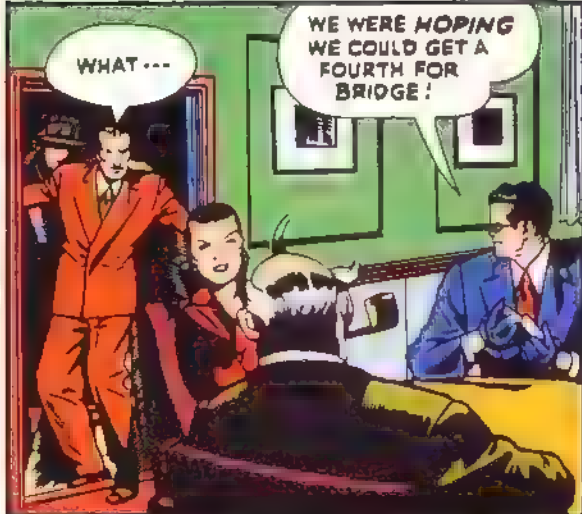


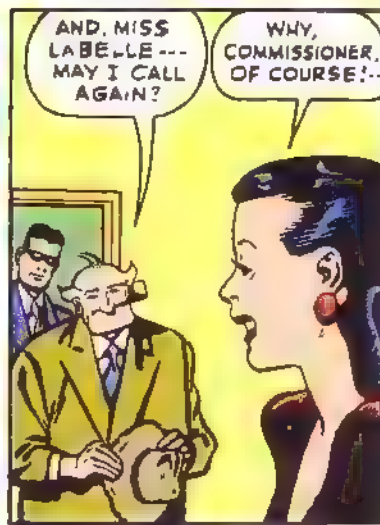
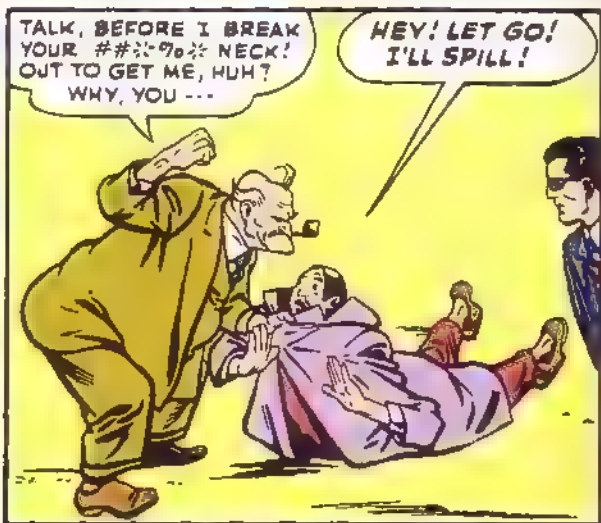














December 10, 1944

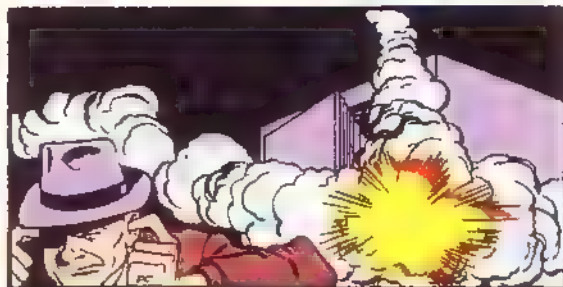
THE

SPRINT

Here's a GOOD LOOK at two crooks the cops have yearned to see...

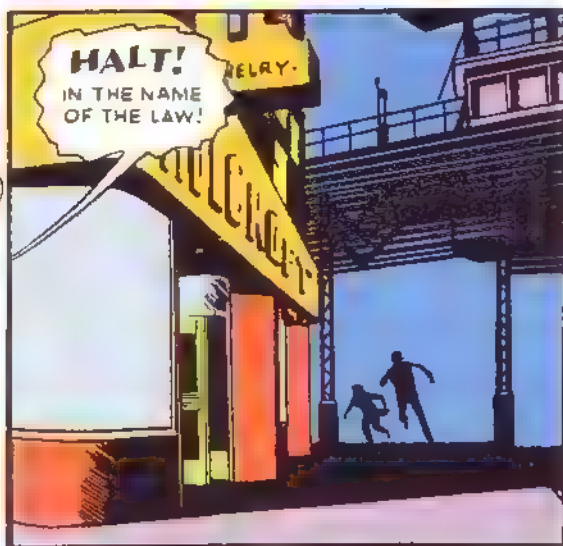
AIN'T NO LOCK  
I CAN'T JIMMY  
OPEN, SNICK!

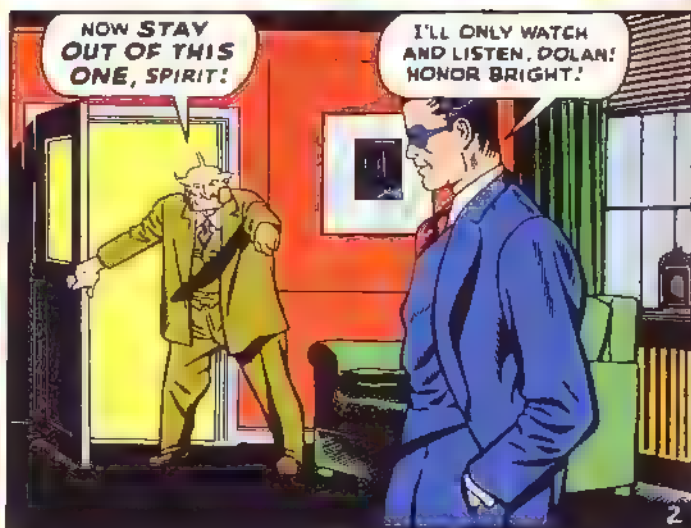
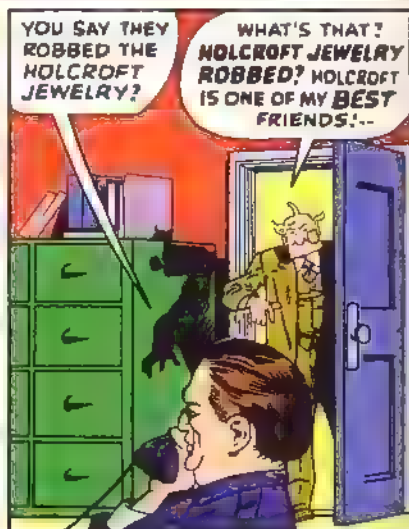
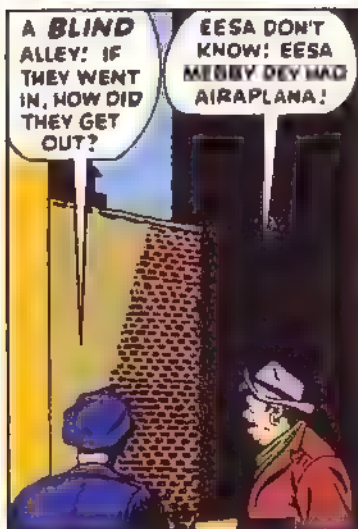
LET ME AT THE  
SAFE WITH THIS  
SOUP!



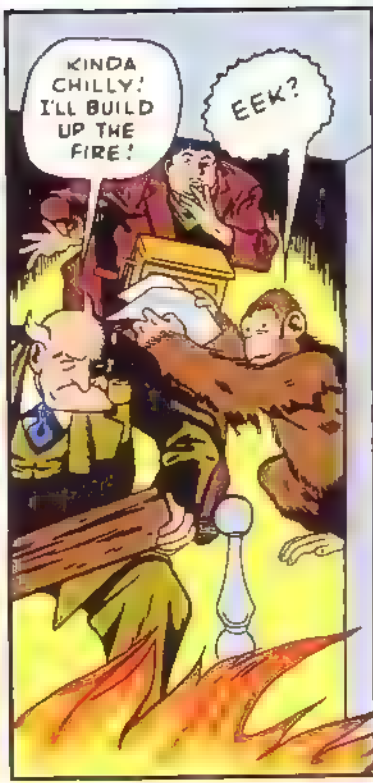
HALT!  
IN THE NAME  
OF THE LAW!

RELY.

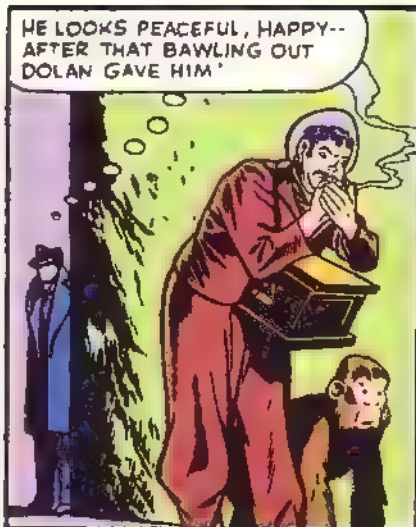




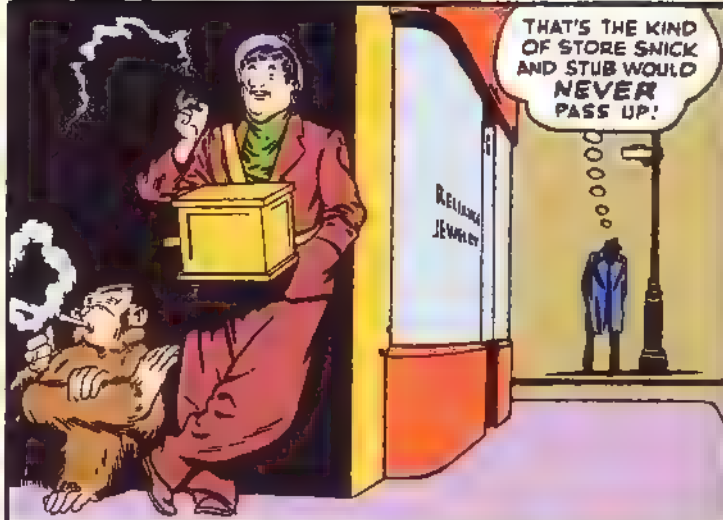




HE LOOKS PEACEFUL, HAPPY--  
AFTER THAT BAWLING OUT  
DOLAN GAVE HIM'



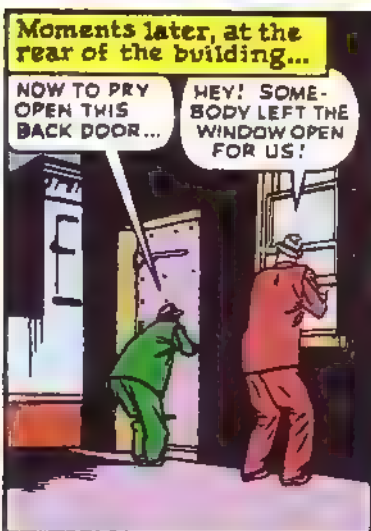
THAT'S THE KIND OF  
STORE SNIICK  
AND STUB WOULD  
**NEVER**  
PASS UP!



Moments later, at the  
rear of the building...

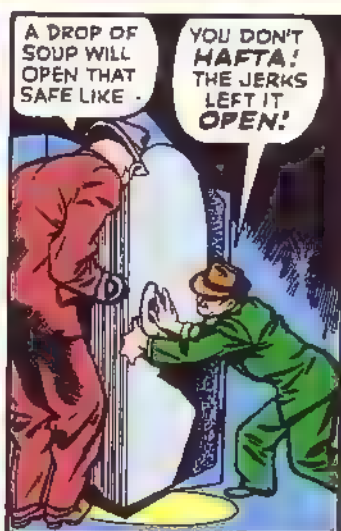
NOW TO PRY  
OPEN THIS  
BACK DOOR...

HEY! SOME-  
BODY LEFT THE  
WINDOW OPEN  
FOR US!



A DROP OF  
SOUP WILL  
OPEN THAT  
SAFE LIKE -

YOU DON'T  
HAFTA!  
THE JERKS  
LEFT IT  
**OPEN!**



GREETINGS! I  
JIMMIED MY WAY  
IN AHEAD OF YOU!  
DON'T I LOOK  
LIKE SOMETHING  
**PRECIOUS?**

**THE  
SPIRIT!**

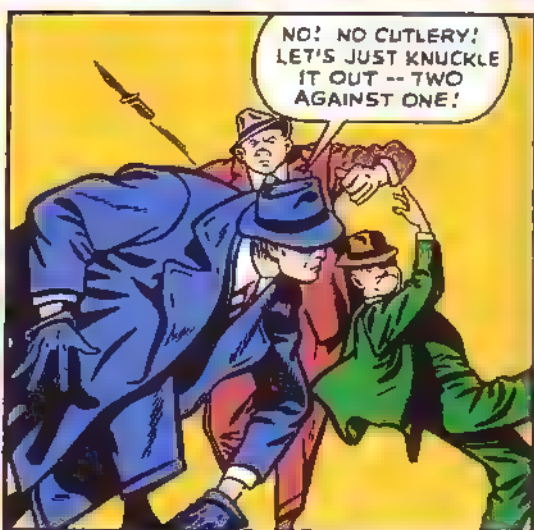


SET DOWN THAT  
BOTTLE! WE DON'T  
WANT ANY LOUD  
NOISES!

GIVE HIM  
THE BLADE,  
STUB!



NO! NO CUTLERY!  
LET'S JUST KNUCKLE  
IT OUT -- TWO  
AGAINST ONE!

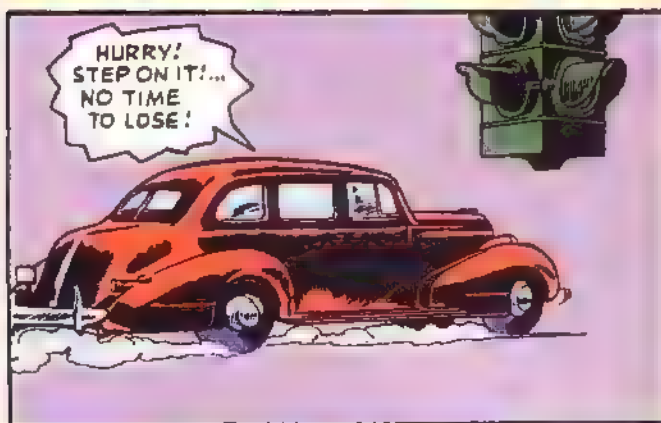
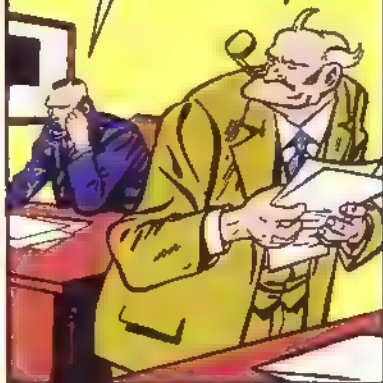




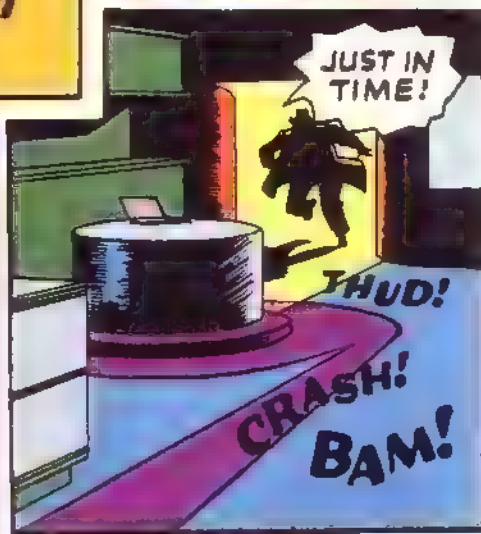


WHAT'S THAT  
YOU SAY? RIOT  
AT THE RELIANCE  
JEWELRY?

THOSE THIEVES  
AGAIN! QUICK,  
START MY  
CAR!



HURRY!  
STEP ON IT!...  
NO TIME  
TO LOSE!



JUST IN  
TIME!

THUD!

CRASH!  
BAM!

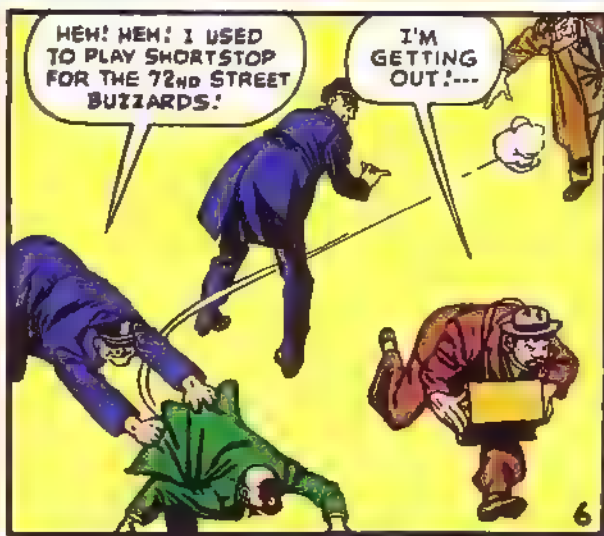
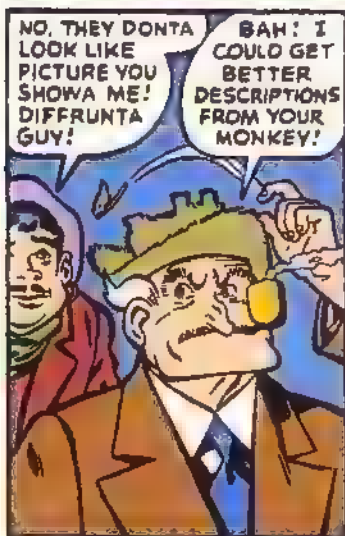
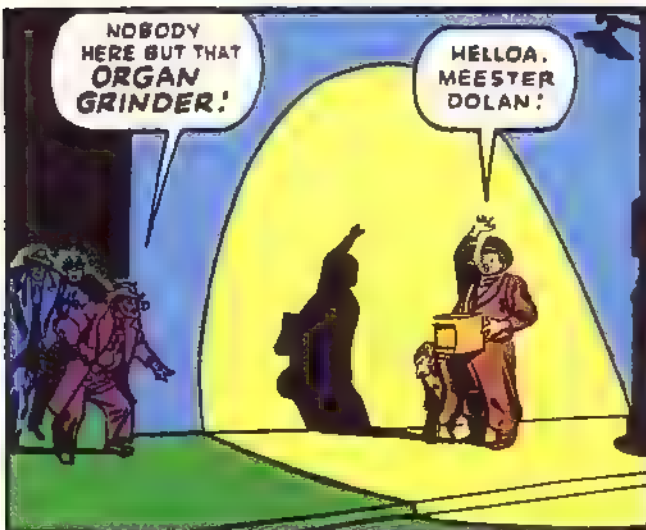


WE  
GOT THE MUG  
COMMISSIONER!

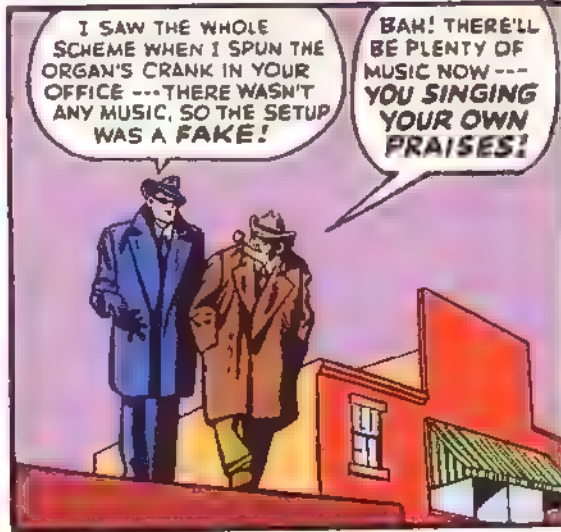
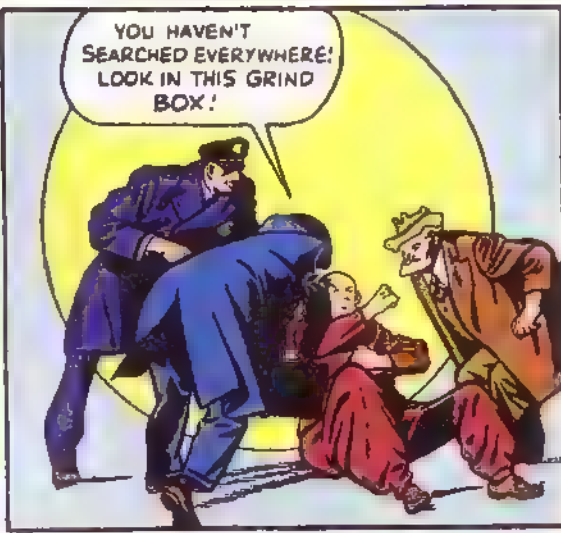
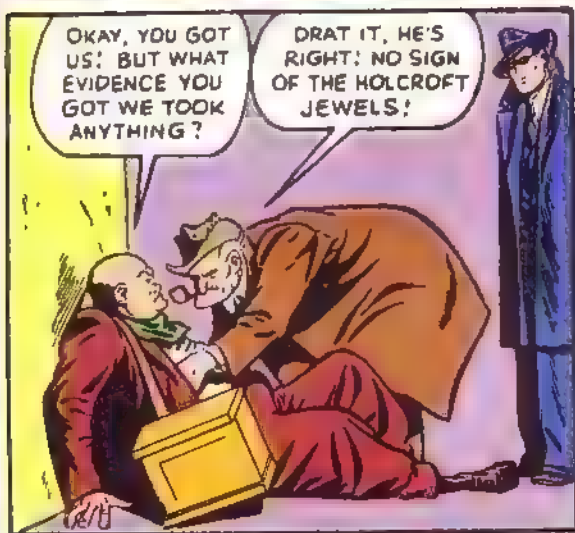
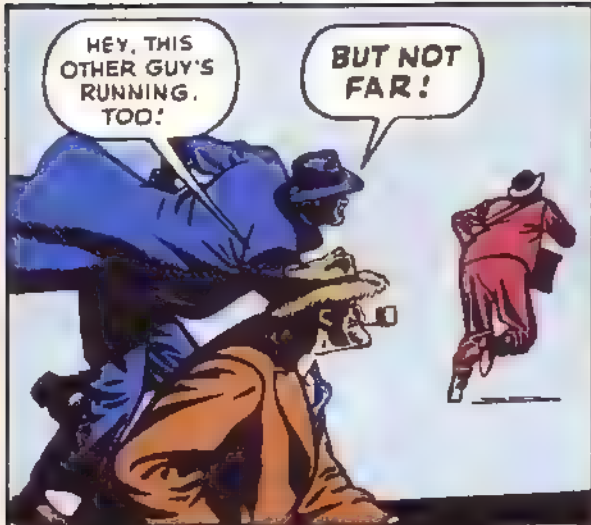


THE  
SPIRIT!

LET ME GO,  
YOU FOOLS! THERE  
GO THE THIEVES,  
AROUND THE  
CORNER!







COMIC  
BOOK  
SECTION

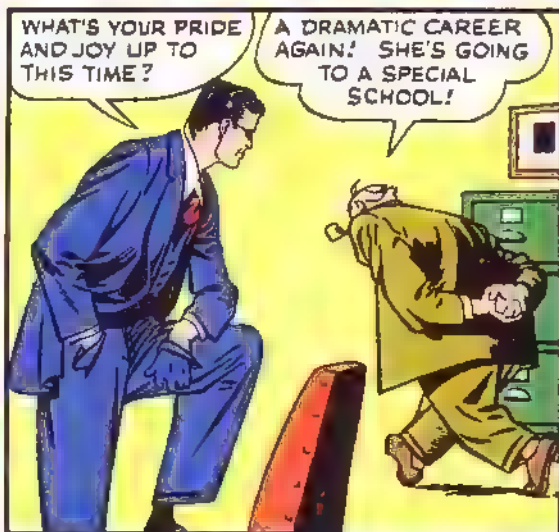
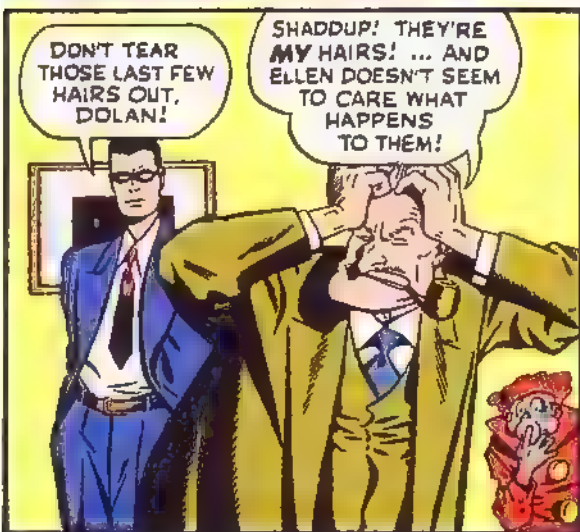
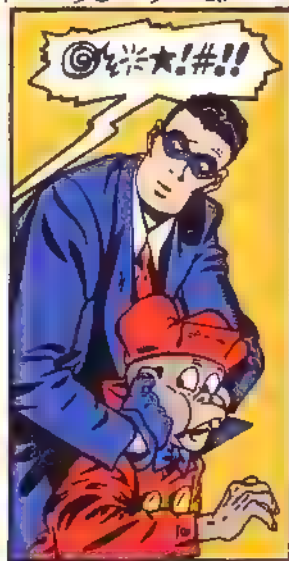
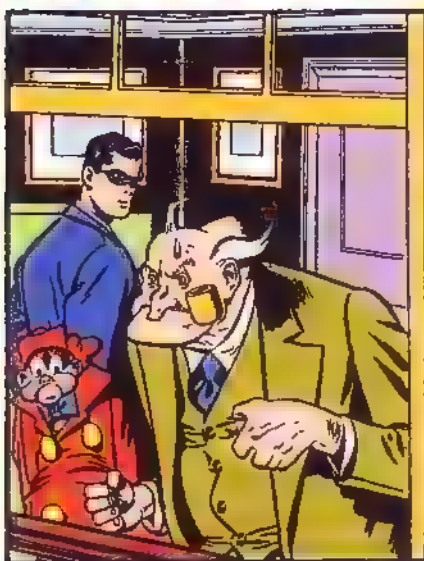
THE DANCING GANG

December 17, 1944

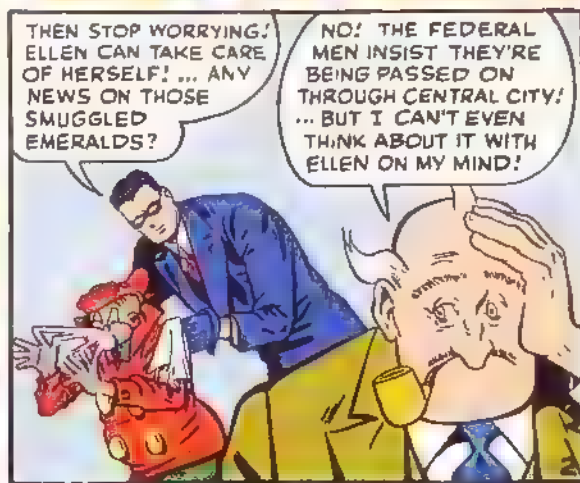
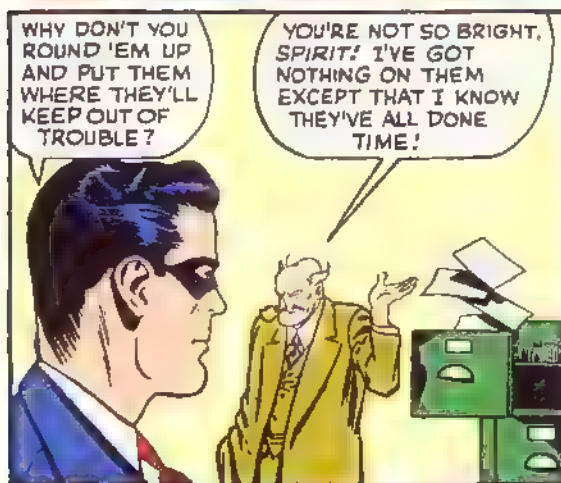
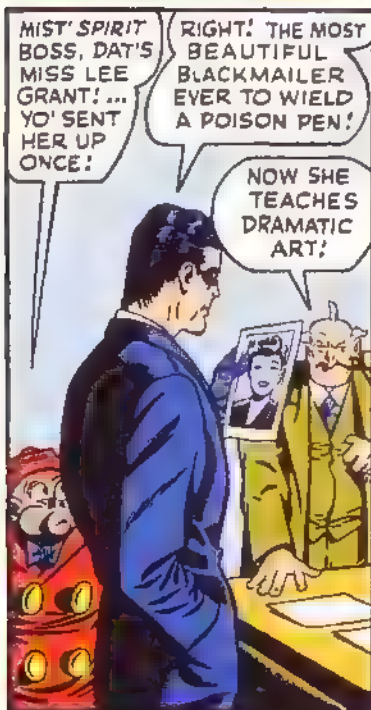
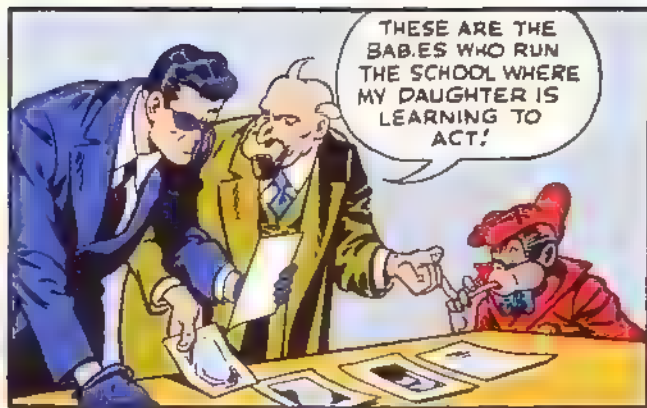
ACTION  
Mystery  
ADVENTURE

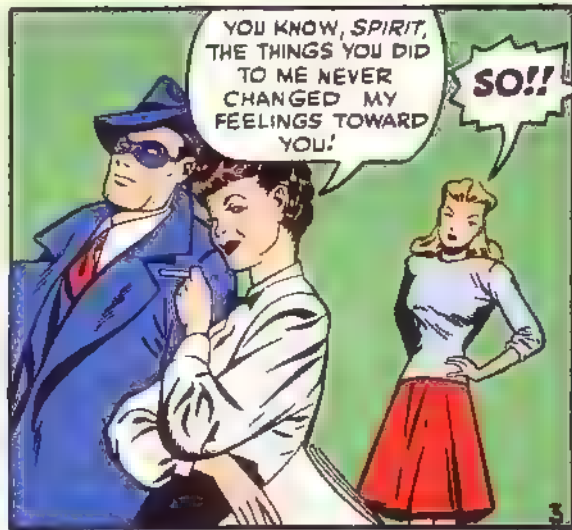
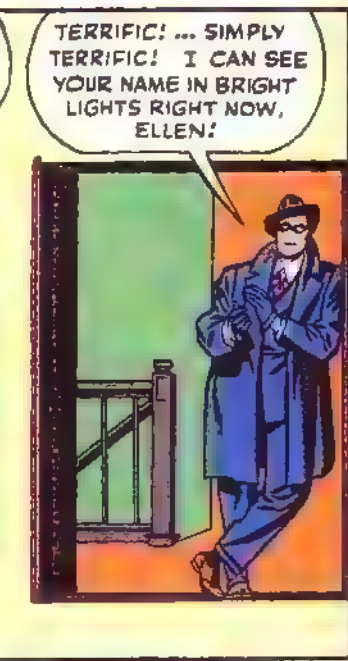
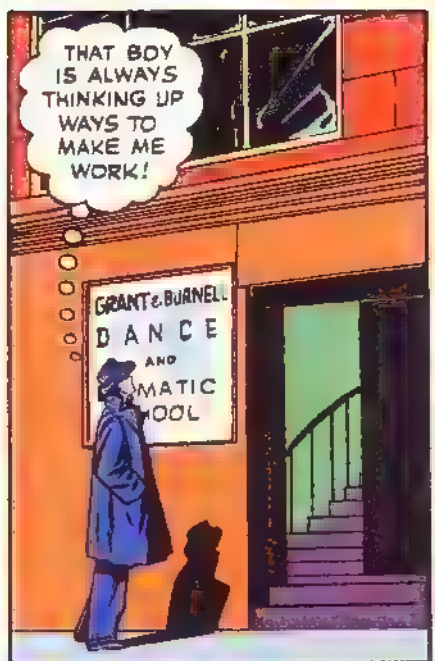
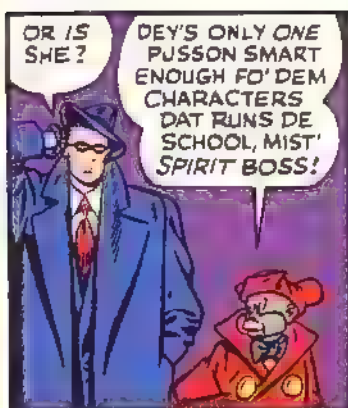
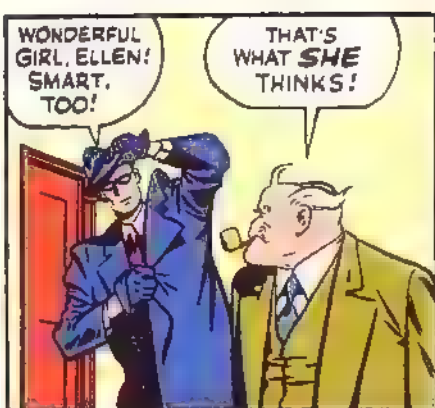
# THE SPIRIT

by Will Eisner











I'VE GOT TO LEARN TAP DANCING! I'M GETTING TIRED OF FIGHTING CRIME, AND A MAN MUST DO SOMETHING FOR A LIVING!

I'LL GET BUSTER BURNELL! HE'LL TEACH YOU EVERYTHING!

YOUR PAPPY DOESN'T LIKE THE IDEA OF HIS LITTLE GIRL HANGING AROUND WITH A BUNCH OF CROOKS!

WELL, YOU CERTAINLY SEEM TO LIKE THEM!

THAT'S DIFFERENT! I'M USED TO CROOKS!

BESIDES, THEY'RE REALLY GREAT ARTISTS--AND YOU'RE JUST PASSING ON A STORY DADDY MADE UP! THOUGH I'M NOT SO SURE I TRUST LEE GRANT NOW!

IT'S THE SPIRIT, ALL RIGHT!

OH-H-H!

BOYS, DON'T BE SO UNFRIENDLY! THE SPIRIT WANTS TAP LESSONS! WHAT'S WRONG WITH THAT?

Y-YOU READY TO START NOW, SPIRIT?

IMMEDIATELY!

THEN WATCH CLOSELY AND DO EXACTLY WHAT I DO!

YOU MEAN LIKE THIS?

NOW I'VE SEEN EVERYTHING!



BEFORE THIS  
GOES ANY  
FURTHER---



NO ... MAY... NOT  
THAT! THE LAST TIME  
I TRIED TO SAP THE  
SPIRIT, I FOUND  
MYSELF FLYING  
OUT A WINDOW!



YOU'RE  
SENSATIONAL,  
SPIRIT!



CONFIDENTIALLY, HE'S  
RANK ... VERY RANK!

I'LL GO TO  
THE DOOR!

RING!



EVER SEE  
FRED ASTAIRE  
DO THIS  
ONE?



IT'S DR. GRAY,  
KIDDIES! SHE'S COME  
OVER TO TAKE CARE  
OF YOUR  
TOOTSIES!



HEY, DON'T  
STOP THE MUSIC  
NOW! I'M JUST  
GETTING  
HOT!

THEY'LL BE BACK  
IN A MINUTE,  
SPIRIT! POOR KIDS  
DANCE SO MUCH, WE  
HAVE TO HAVE A  
CHIROPODIST COME  
IN EVERY FEW DAYS  
TO TAKE CARE OF  
THEIR FEET!



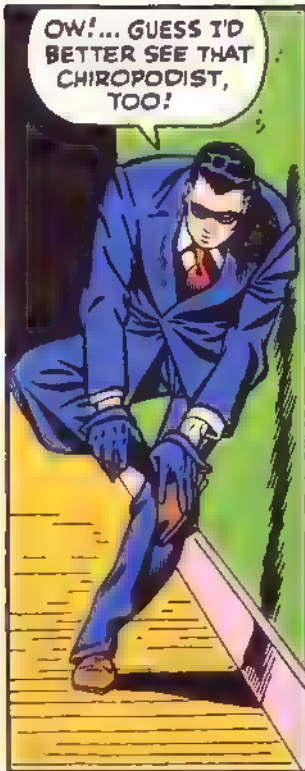
OH, WELL,  
THAT'S  
DIFFERENT!





SPIRIT, LOOK OUT! YOU'RE NOT AS YOUNG AS YOU USED TO BE!

OUCH! MY FOOT!

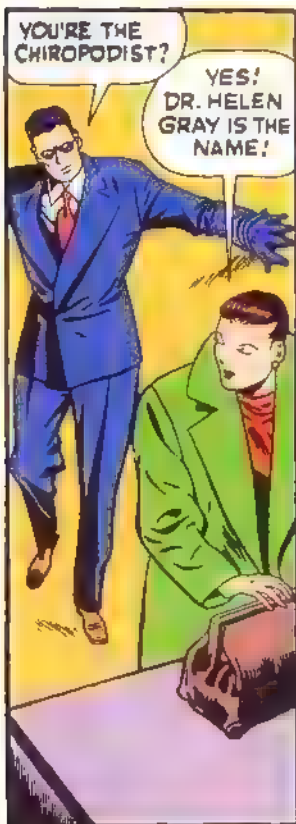


OW!... GUESS I'D BETTER SEE THAT CHIROPODIST, TOO!



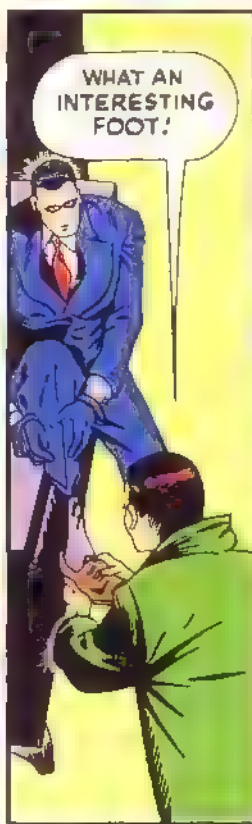
GULP! ANYTHING WRONG?

I HURT MY FOOT!



YOU'RE THE CHIROPODIST?

YES! DR. HELEN GRAY IS THE NAME!



WHAT AN INTERESTING FOOT!



PRACTICING FOR SOME PART THAT CALLS FOR A MASK, I SUPPOSE!

UH...YES...SURE! WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO DO?



THE HEEL... IT DOESN'T COME OFF!

HUH? HOLY HANNAH! WELL, ISN'T THAT TOO BAD?

I'LL JUST  
BORROW  
YOUR BAG  
DOC!

I DON'T  
UNDERSTAND!

NOT LEAVING NOW, ARE  
YOU, KIDDIES? I'VE  
HARDLY LEARNED A  
THING ABOUT TAP  
DANCING!

TRY DANCING  
THROUGH  
THESE!

BANG!  
BANG!

ALL RIGHT!...  
IF I HAVE TO  
LEARN THE  
HARD WAY!

I TOLD YOU IT  
WAS R SKY TO  
PULL WEAPONS  
ON HIM!

BUT HOW WAS I  
TO KNOW HE WAS  
THE SPIRIT? I  
NEVER WENT IN  
FOR CRIME  
BEFORE!

HOLD THIS ON  
THEM, ELLEN.  
WHILE I LOOK  
INTO THE DOC'S  
BAG!

SPIRIT...  
I DON'T  
UNDERSTAND  
ALL THIS!

THE SMUGGLED EMERALDS!  
IT WAS DR. HELEN GRAY'S  
JOB TO PICK THEM OUT OF  
THE HEELS ON THE GANG'S  
DANCING SHOES AND PASS  
THEM ON! DOLAN'LL LOVE  
YOU FOR THIS, ELLEN!

SPIRIT, ALWAYS  
REMEMBER THAT  
NO MATTER WHAT  
HAPPENS, I STILL  
FEEL THE SAME  
FLAME IN MY  
HEART FOR  
YOU!

GOSH, SHE'S  
CORNY! I  
PROBABLY  
COULDN'T  
HAVE LEARNED  
TO ACT FROM  
HER ANYWAY!



THE

# SPIRIT

Each human, journeying hurriedly through life, leaves his mark and influence on those who follow...but few on this earth can boast a heritage so bizarre as that of the Heirs of Dubbs Dombey!



In the heart of  
Wildwood Cemetery..

THEY S PUTTIN SOMEBODY  
AWAY RIGHT, M ST' SPIRIT  
BOSS! TONS O' FLOWAHS --  
AN' LOTSA TOUGH-LOOKIN'  
MOURNAHS!

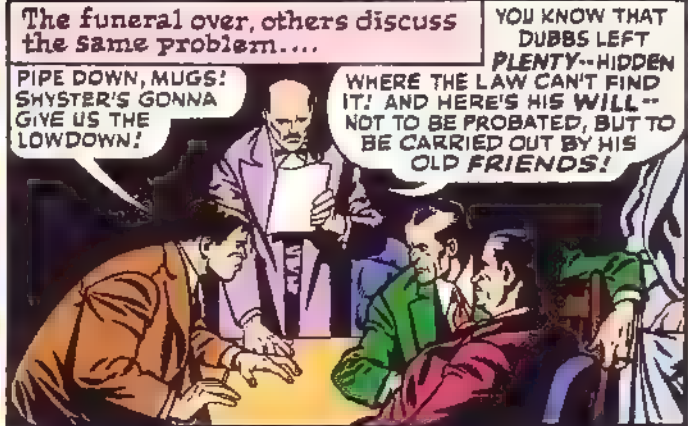
THAT'S THE FUNERAL  
OF DUBBS DOMBEY,  
THE GANG LEADER,  
EBONY! REMEMBER  
HOW WE CAUGHT  
HIM? HE DIED  
SUDDENLY IN  
JAIL!





YASSUH! AM READ  
IN THE PAPAH HE DIED  
WITH **NO MONEY!**--  
NOT ENUF TO PAY HIS  
**BACK INCOME**  
**TAX!**

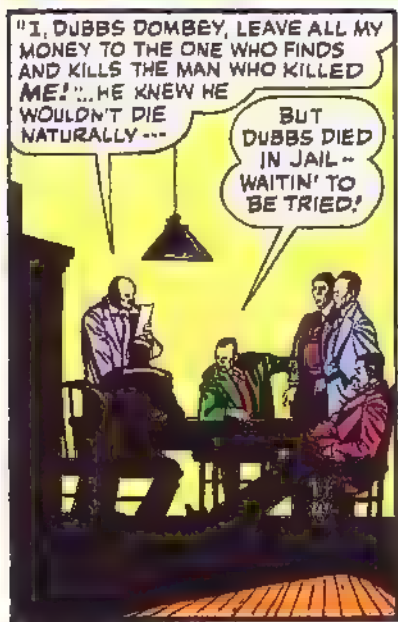
I WONDER  
WHAT HAPPENED  
TO EVERYTHING  
HE STOLE?



The funeral over, others discuss  
the same problem....

PIPE DOWN, MUGS!  
SHYSTER'S GONNA  
GIVE US THE  
LOWDOWN!

YOU KNOW THAT  
DUBBS LEFT  
**PLENTY--HIDDEN**  
**WHERE THE LAW CAN'T FIND**  
**IT! AND HERE'S HIS WILL--**  
**NOT TO BE PROBATED, BUT TO**  
**BE CARRIED OUT BY HIS**  
**OLD FRIENDS!**



"I, DUBBS DOMBEY, LEAVE ALL MY  
MONEY TO THE ONE WHO FINDS  
AND KILLS THE MAN WHO KILLED  
ME!"...HE KNEW HE  
WOULDN'T DIE  
NATURALLY ---

BUT  
DUBBS DIED  
IN JAIL--  
WAITIN' TO  
BE TRIED!

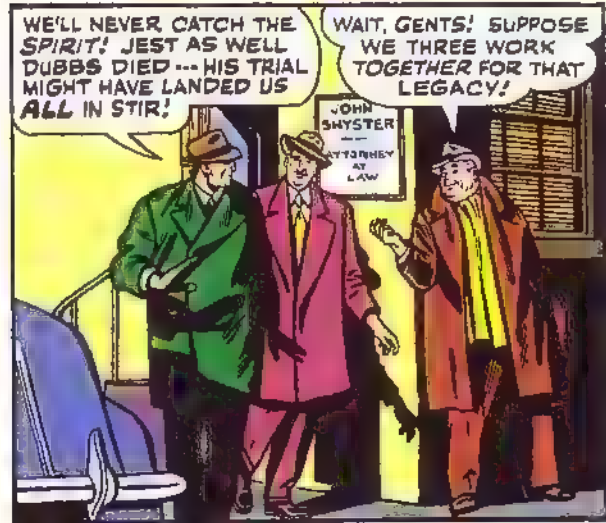


YEAH, BUT  
WHO PUT  
DUBBS IN THE  
SNEEZER?

THAT STOOG  
OF THE COPS--  
**THE**  
**SPIRIT!**



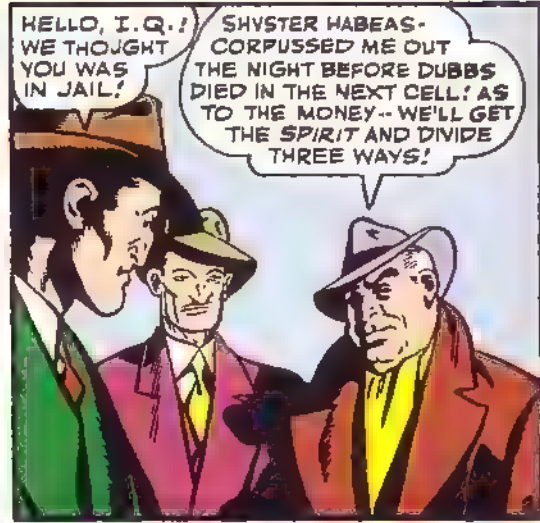
THEN WHOEVER  
GETS THE SPIRIT  
WILL GET DUBBS'S  
FORTUNE!



WE'LL NEVER CATCH THE  
**SPIRIT!** JEST AS WELL  
DUBBS DIED --- HIS TRIAL  
MIGHT HAVE LANDED US  
**ALL IN STIR!**

WAIT, GENTS! SUPPOSE  
WE THREE WORK  
TOGETHER FOR THAT  
LEGACY!

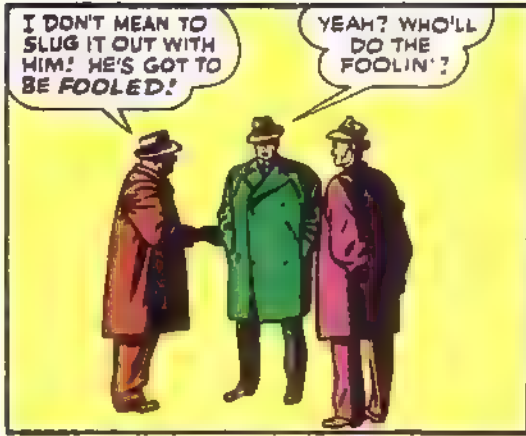
JOHN  
SHYSTER  
--  
ATTORNEY  
AT LAW



HELLO, I.Q.!  
WE THOUGHT  
YOU WAS  
IN JAIL!

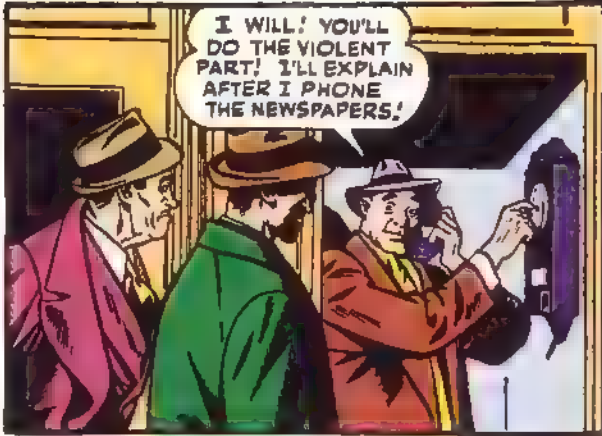
SHYSTER HABEAS-  
CORPUSSED ME OUT  
THE NIGHT BEFORE DUBBS  
DIED IN THE NEXT CELL! AS  
TO THE MONEY--WE'LL GET  
THE SPIRIT AND DIVIDE  
THREE WAYS!





I DON'T MEAN TO SLUG IT OUT WITH HIM! HE'S GOT TO BE FOOLED!

YEAH? WHO'LL DO THE FOOLIN'?



I WILL! YOU'LL DO THE VIOLENT PART! I'LL EXPLAIN AFTER I PHONE THE NEWSPAPERS!



WHAT'S THAT? -- YOU MEAN IT? -- WAIT TILL I GET A REWRITE MAN ON THIS!



**CENTRAL CITY RECORD**  
**DUBBS DOMBEY STILL LIVES!**  
**JAIL MATE SAYS GANG CHIEF WAS SEEN ALIVE...**



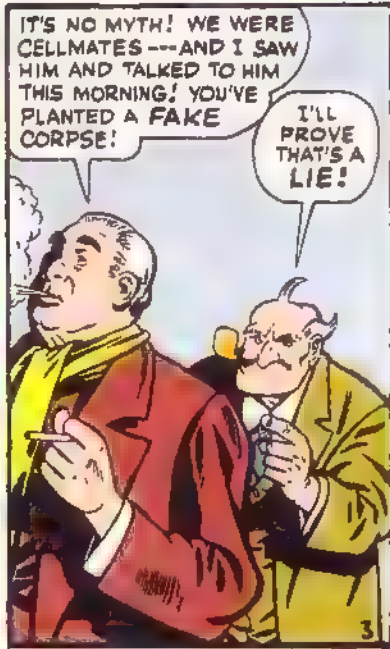
I'M INTERESTED IN THIS DOMBEY RUMOR! AFTER ALL, I CAUGHT HIM, AND ---

WAIT! I'VE HAD I.Q. PCKED UP FOR QUESTIONING!



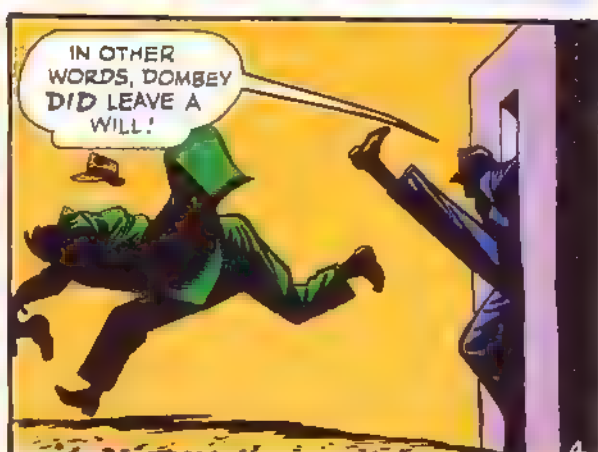
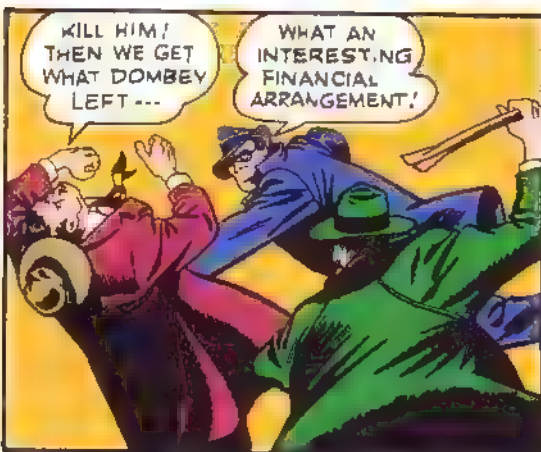
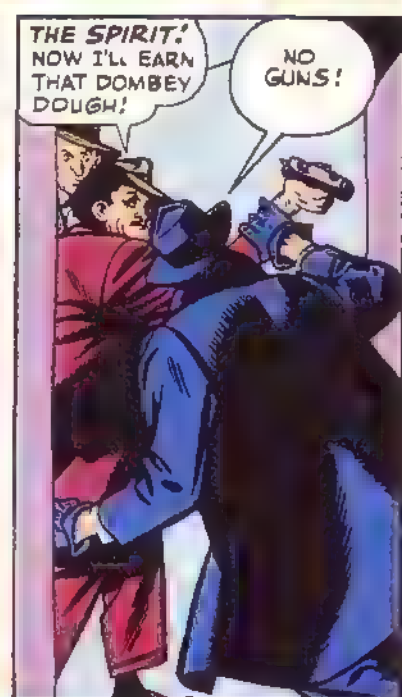
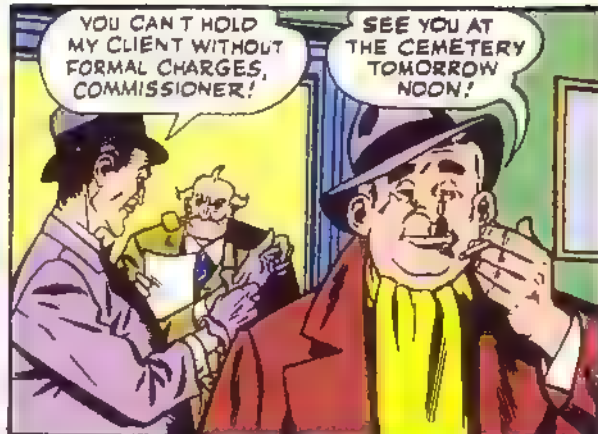
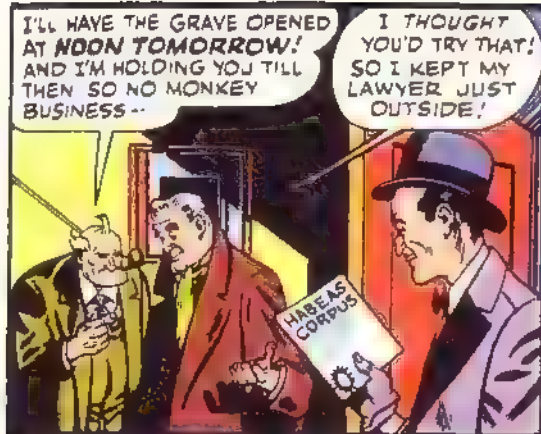
WHAT'S THE IDEA OF ARRESTING ME DOLAN? I DEMAND A HEARING!

I WANT TO KNOW ABOUT THIS DOMBEY MYTH!



IT'S NO MYTH! WE WERE CELLMATES --- AND I SAW HIM AND TALKED TO HIM THIS MORNING! YOU'VE PLANTED A FAKE CORPSE!

I'LL PROVE THAT'S A LIE!





THEY'RE GONE--  
BUT FAST! YOU  
CAN GO AHEAD,  
DOCTOR!

THIS IS ALL VERY  
IRREGULAR, SPIRIT!  
IF I DIDN'T  
TRUST YOU...

AS I EXPLAINED, IT'S  
TO SERVE THE CAUSE OF  
JUSTICE! I'LL SQUARE  
THINGS WITH THE  
AUTHORITIES!

I TRUST YOU,  
SPIRIT! HELP  
ME MAKE THE  
TRANSFER!

Noon the next day...

WE DID OUR  
BEST TO SNATCH  
DOMBEY'S BODY--

WELL,  
MAYBE THEY  
WON'T LOOK TOO  
CLOSE! I'LL GO  
JOIN THEM!

ON TIME  
TO THE DOT  
DOLAN!

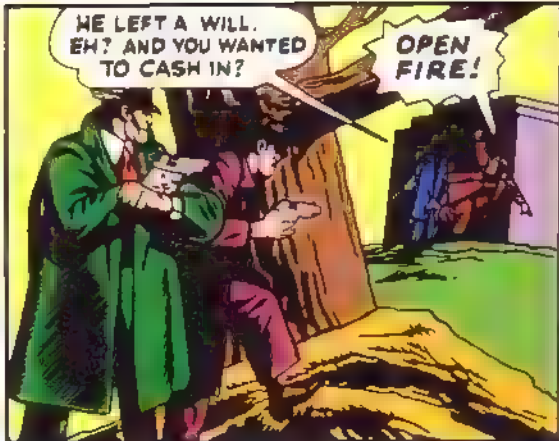
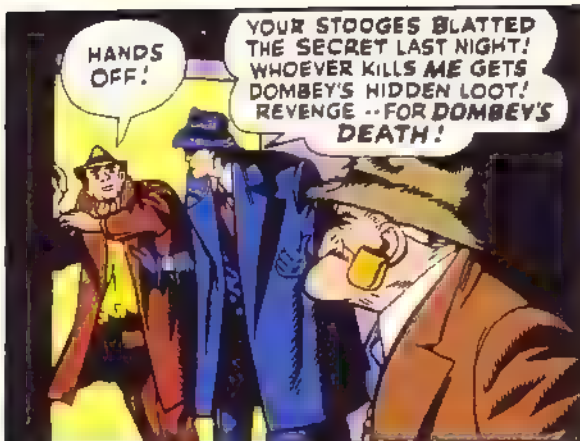
COME IN  
AND SEE THAT  
DOMBEY'S  
REALLY  
DEAD!

I SEE  
A BODY  
INSIDE...

BUT IS IT  
DOMBEY?

NO, I.Q.!!  
IT IS  
NOT!

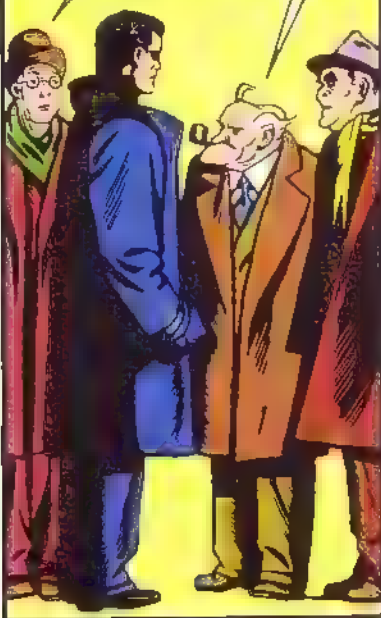
THE  
SPIRIT!





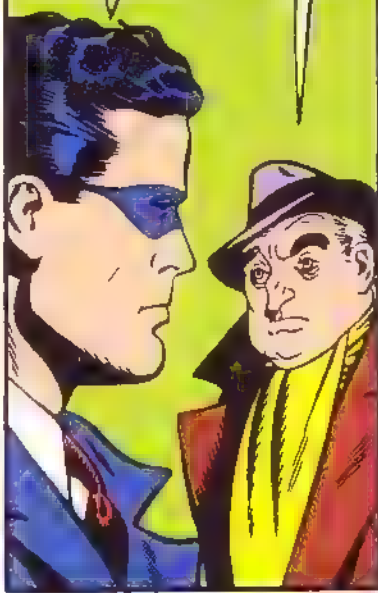
I HAVE POSSESSION  
OF DOMBEY'S BODY!  
THERE IS EVIDENCE  
OF POISON!

WHO  
WOULD  
POISON  
HIM AND  
WHY?



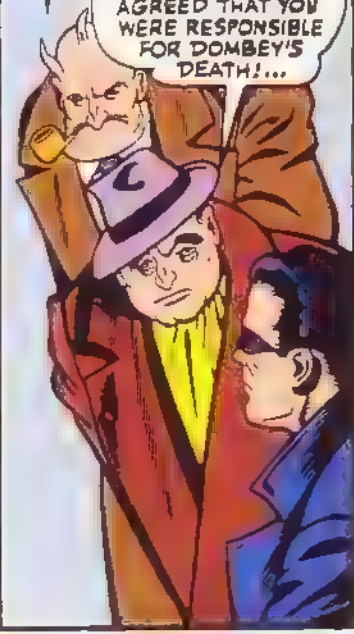
WHO BUT HIS CELLMATE,  
I Q. ? TO KEEP HIM FROM  
GOING TO TRIAL -- A TRIAL  
THAT WOULD EXPOSE  
SOME OF THE CITY'S  
**BIGGEST  
RACKETS!**

I  
DIDN'T.



STAND STILL, I. Q.! ---  
AND TALK! WE WANT  
THE WHOLE STORY!

I HATE YOU, SPIRIT!  
THE UNDERGROUND  
AGREED THAT YOU  
WERE RESPONSIBLE  
FOR DOMBEY'S  
DEATH!...



WHOEVER GOT  
YOU WOULD GET  
DOMBEY'S MONEY.  
SHYSTER KNOWS  
WHERE IT IS!-

BUT YOU'RE  
THE KILLER!  
SO I WIN  
THE PRIZE!



*Later...*

THIS IS  
DOMBEY'S HIDDEN  
BANKROLL! ALL  
OF IT!

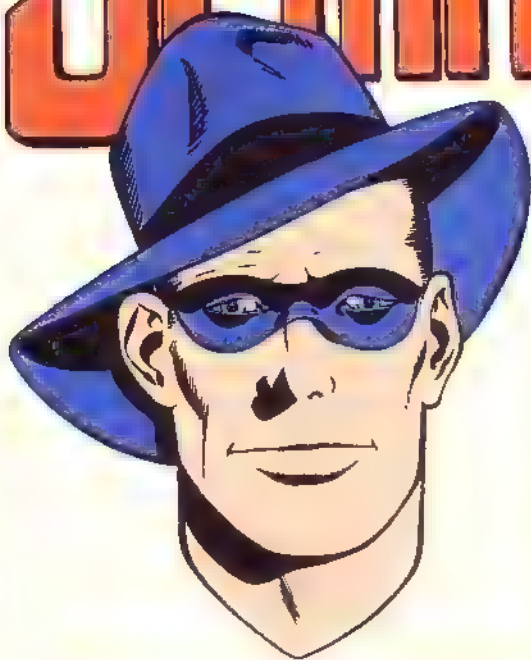
WE'RE  
LOCKING YOU  
UP, SHYSTER,  
WHILE  
WE MAKE  
SURE!



OF COURSE  
I WON'T KEEP  
THIS MONEY!...  
IT'LL ALL GO TO  
PAY THE INCOME  
TAXES DOMBEY  
FALSIFIED!



# THE SPIRIT

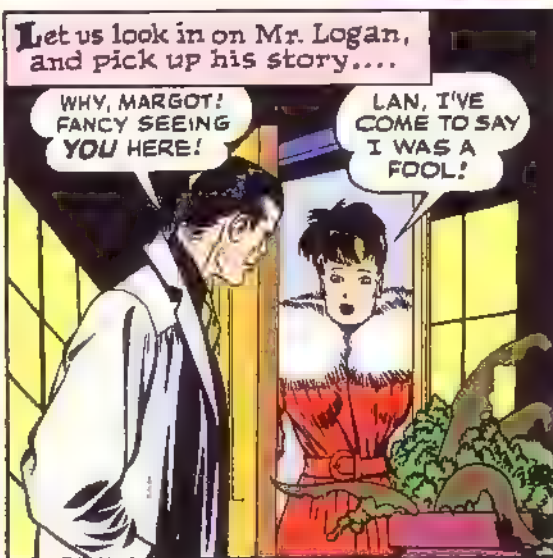


*FROM his den in Wildwood, the SPIRIT rises to solve the mystery of the DEATH ANGEL ...and runs smack into a series of emotional clashes! Can he do otherwise when a lovely woman is involved?*

Let us look in on Mr. Logan, and pick up his story....

WHY, MARGOT!  
FANCY SEEING  
YOU HERE!

LAN, I'VE  
COME TO SAY  
I WAS A  
FOOL!



OH -- SO  
YOU'RE NOT  
GOING TO MARRY  
SCARPE AFTER  
ALL -- DESPITE  
HIS MONEY-  
BAGS?

NO, LAN,  
NO!





I WAS INTRIGUED WITH HIM. I ADMIT! HIS MONEY--POSITION--

AND I'M ONLY A POOR BOTANIST! VERY TOUCHING, MARGOT! IF I HADN'T SEEN IN THE GOSSIP COLUMN THAT SCARPE HAD LOST HIS FORTUNE--



COULD IT BE THAT YOU DON'T LOVE ME ANY MORE, LAN?

COULD BE!



I'LL SHOW YOU! YOU'LL MARRY ME OR BE SORRY YOU DIDN'T!

I'LL DO NEITHER!



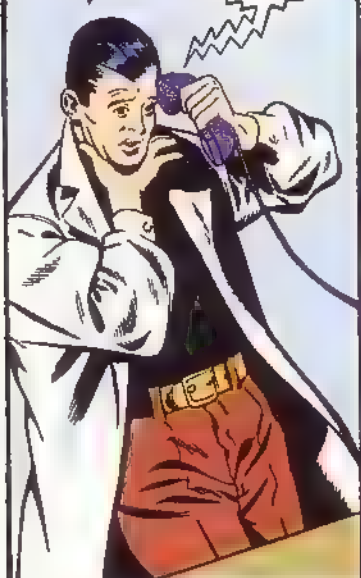
SHE LEFT HER PURSE... HMMM!



Then, an hour later...

POLICE?... LAN LOGAN! I'M DYING! IT'S ---

WHAT? WHAT IS IT?



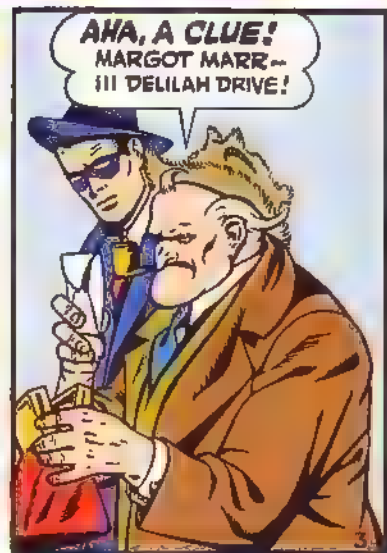
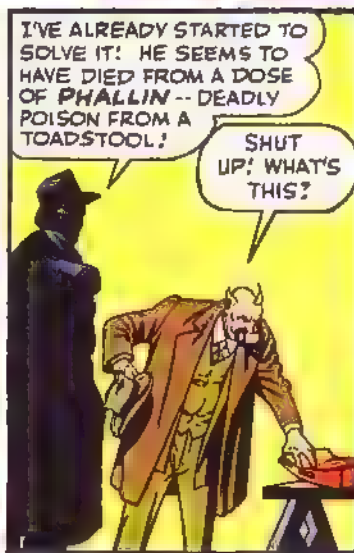
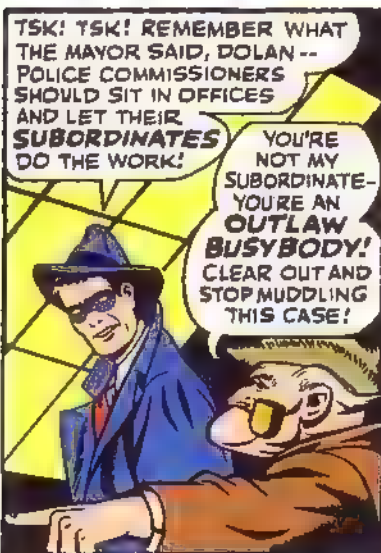
THE DEATH ANGEL!-- OHNNNN!

HEY! GET OUT TO THIS ADDRESS-- QUICK!

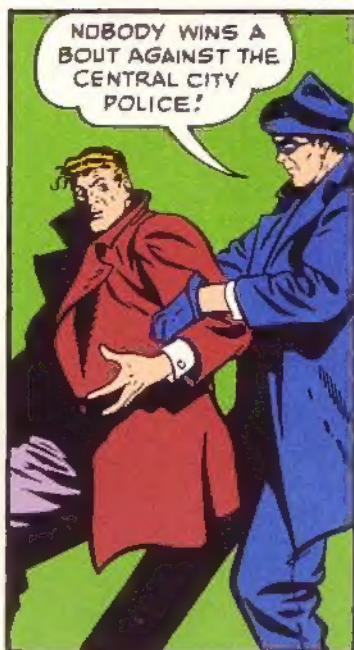
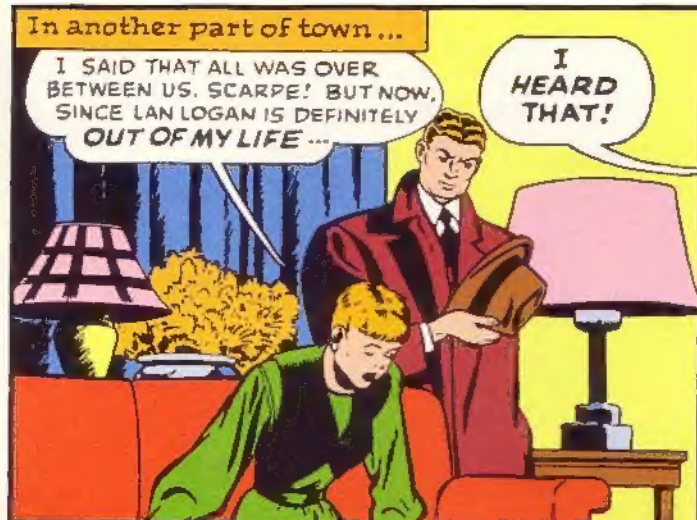


DEAD-- AND NOT A MARK ON HIM! BETTER CALL THE DETECTIVE BUREAU!













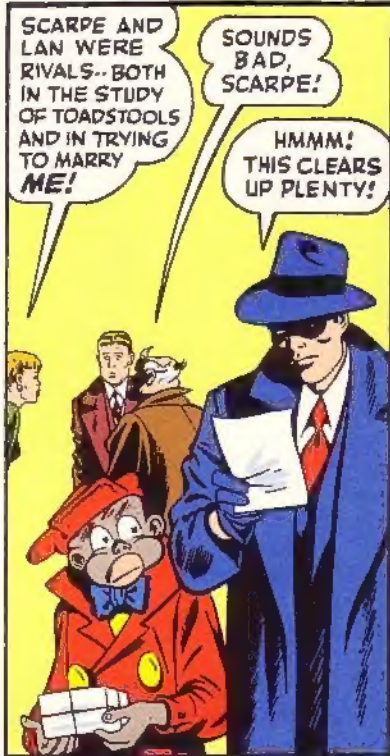
BY THE WAY, WHAT MIGHT LOGAN HAVE MEANT BY THE **DEATH ANGEL**!

DEATH ANGEL? ANOTHER NAME FOR THE AMANITA-- THE DEADLIEST KNOWN TOADSTOOL!



THE DOCTAH GIMME THIS REPO'T YO' ASKED FO', MIST SPIRIT BOSS! AN' WE FOUND **THIS** IN MIST' LOGAN'S WASTE BASKET!

POISONED TOADSTOOLS KILLED LAN? THEN IT'S **SCARPE** WHO'S GUILTY-- NOT ME!



SCARPE AND LAN WERE RIVALS-- BOTH IN THE STUDY OF TOADSTOOLS AND IN TRYING TO MARRY **ME**!

SOUNDS BAD, SCARPE!

HMMM! THIS CLEARS UP PLENTY!



NOBODY'S GOING TO FRAME **ME** FOR MURDER!



HALT, YOU KILLER! IN THE NAME OF THE LAW!

NO, THANKS!



DON'T COME UP HERE AFTER ME, OR I'LL BRAIN YOU!

SPIRIT, GET POLICE HEADQUARTERS ON THE PHONE! HAVE THIS BUILDING SURROUNDED!



WHAT ARE THEY WAITING FOR? LET 'EM ALL COME! I'LL SMASH THE HEAD OF THE FIRST WHO SHOWS -- THE SPIRIT-- THE LAW -- OR THAT DOUBLE-CROSSER, MARGOT!

AH SEE HIM, MIST' SPIRIT BOSS! BUT HOW WE GWINE TO GIT TO HIM?



THIS IS THE ONLY WAY, EBONY! HERE GOES!

AH IS RIGHT BEHINE -- WIF THE EVIDENCE!



GOT HIM!



CALL ME A KILLER, HUH?

WON'T YOU LISTEN TO REASON?



I'LL GO DOWN FIGHTING --- OOW!

I'M ONLY TRYING TO TELL YOU--



--THAT I CAME TO TELL YOU THAT YOU'RE IN THE CLEAR! OPEN THAT PACKAGE, EBONY!

COMIN' UP, MIST' SPIRIT BOSS!





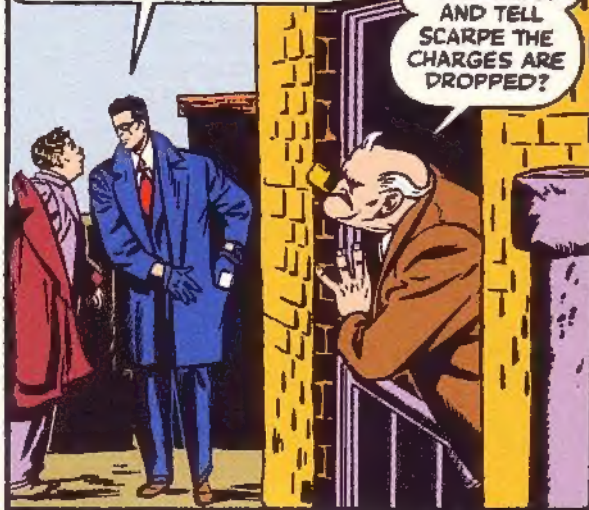
THIS POISONOUS AMANITA CAME FROM LOGAN'S LABORATORY! HIS TOOTH-MARKS SHOW ON IT--AND BITS OF IT WERE FOUND BY THE DOCTOR IN HIS THROAT!

THEN HE WASN'T MURDERED! HE COMMITTED **SUICIDE!** BUT WHY?



THE DOCTOR'S REPORT EXPLAINED THAT, TOO! LOGAN WAS DYING OF HEART DISEASE -- WANTED TO PUT HIMSELF OUT OF PAIN!

IS IT SAFE TO COME UP AND TELL SCARPE THE CHARGES ARE DROPPED?



MY DEAR! YOU'RE FREE! I KNEW YOU COULDN'T---

NOTHING OF THE SORT, MARGOT! A LITTLE WHILE AGO YOU TRIED TO ACCUSE ME TO TURN SUSPICION FROM YOURSELF!



YOU'VE NEVER LOVED ANYONE BUT YOURSELF! GO MARRY SOMEBODY WHO ISN'T WISE TO YOU!



AT LEAST, SPIRIT, YOU DIDN'T EXPOSE ANY **REAL CRIMINAL!**

NOSSUH! NO MURDER -- NO KILLAH -- NOBODY PUNISHED!



I WOULDN'T SAY THAT! THE CASE HELPED SHOW UP THAT CHISELLING BEAUTY FOR WHAT SHE WAS! IF SCARPE HAD BEEN FOOLED INTO MARRYING HER, IT MIGHT HAVE DEVELOPED INTO A **REAL MURDER** FOR US TO SOLVE! ... WE PREVENTED A CRIME, EH, DOLAN?

